Records of ₱600-M 'Kevin Garcia' account gone

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2001 ★ 28 PAGES 2 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 34 ₱15

Caviteño named to Canada Cabinet

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN AND TES DE GUZMAN

A 66-YEAR-OLD native of Bacoor, Cavite, was appointed Tuesday to a Cabinet position in Canada, making him the first Filipino-Canadian to hold a federal government position, and a key figure in Ottawa's dealings with Asia.

CAVITEÑO/ A12

Ping probes Atong links to kidnapping

BY DAVE VERIDIANO, ARMAND NOCUM AND ROCKY NAZARENO

THE CHIEF of the Philippine National Police yesterday lent credence to allegations that businessman Charlie "Atong" Ang played a murky role in kidnapping activities and handled ransom money.

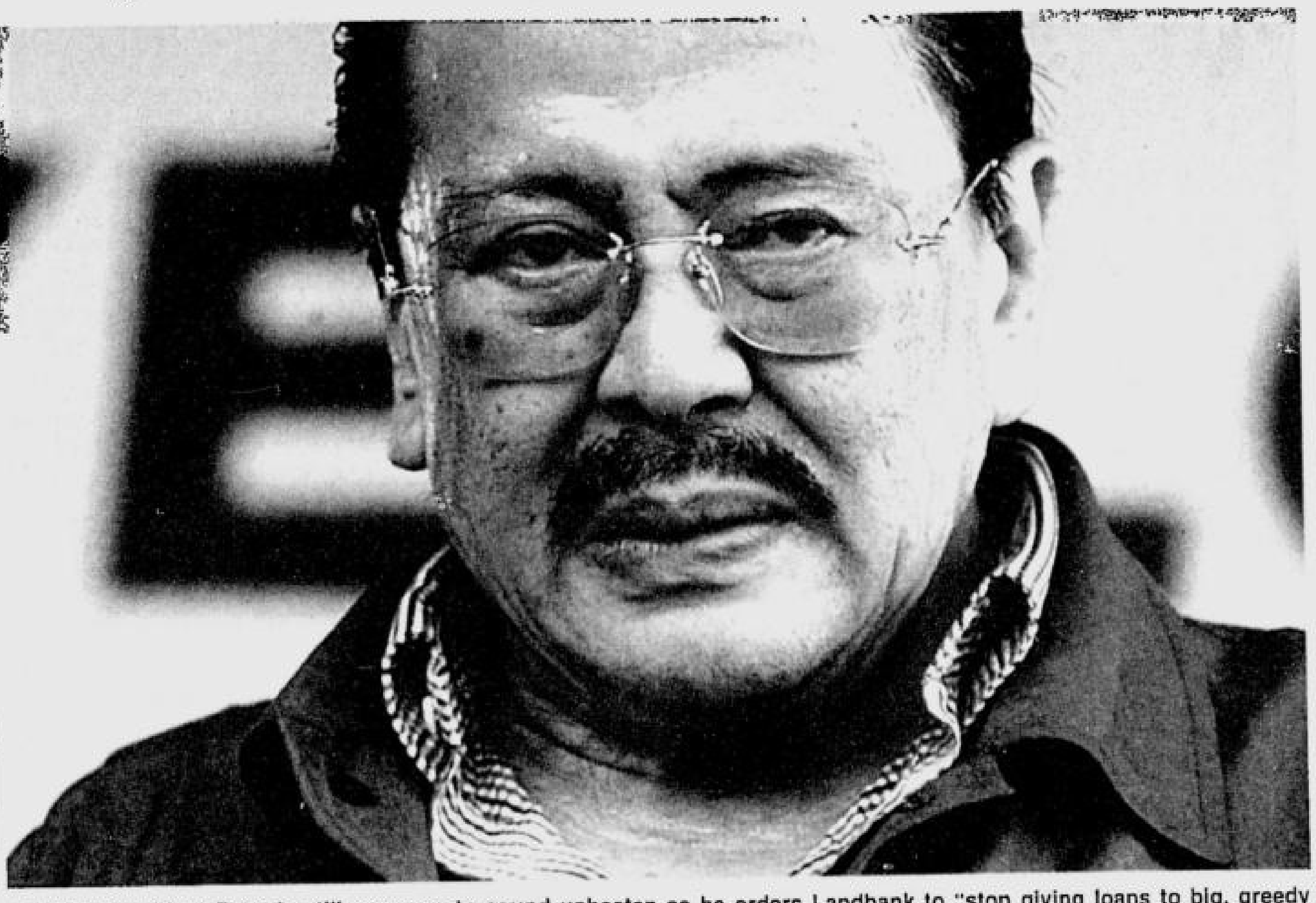
PING/ A12

Obstruction of justice

Cayetano: Estrada pressured judge to acquit Hubert et al.

JESS YUSON

OKAY? Prosecution witness, Jose Yulo, mimics the alleged gesture President Estrada made during a Palace meeting.



A BEAT President Estrada still manages to sound unbeaten as he orders Landbank to "stop giving loans to big, greedy corporations," in San Miguel, Bulacan, where he inaugurates a P16-million bridge on Wednesday. VAL HANDUMON

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE BOMBSHELLS keep exploding on President Estrada.

Sen. Renato Cayetano yesterday accused impeached President Estrada of intervening in the Vizconde massacre case to seek the acquittal of the son of former Sen. Freddie Webb.

Cayetano aired the charge during the Senate impeachment trial after BW Resources Corp. owner and presidential friend Dante Tan accused the senator-judge of making P70 million on BW shares at the height of the BW stock manipulation scandal last year.

Cayetano is the first among the 22 senator-judges to openly attack Mr. Estrada. His charge is as serious as Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's allegations that he delivered about P400 million in "jueteng" payoffs and P130 million in tobacco tax kickbacks to the President.

"I owe it to my family and those who believe in me and those who elected me if Mr. Tan could prove this. I would resign from the Senate as much as I hope the President would resign if the cases against him were proven," Cayetano said.

He said Tan's disclosure was part of Mr. Estrada's "black propaganda" campaign against him because he had rebuffed a request from the President to "intervene" in the celebrated Vizconde murder case.

"I know that he is the one behind this black propaganda against me . . .

OBSTRUCTION/ A11

Dante Tan: I 'fixed' Yasay, Almadro

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

BUSINESSMAN Dante Tan, owner of BW Resources Corp., yesterday rushed to the defense of impeached President Estrada and went on the offensive against two former officials of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Tan, a close friend of the President, said he paid off former SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. and former PSE vice president Ruben Almadro who, according to the businessman, promised to help clear him in the country's biggest stock manipulation scandal.

Tan said he used go-betweens to pay $50,000, P1 million and 200,000 BW shares to Yasay and P2.4 million to Almadro.

Yasay and Almadro denied accepting bribes from Tan.

The two former SEC and PSE officials led separate investigations that found Tan guilty of violating securities laws.

DANTE/ A11

Yulo confirms Almadro testimony

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND ROCKY NAZARENO

IT WAS a day of corroboration for the prosecution panel in the impeachment trial of President Estrada.

Prosecution witness Jose Luis "Nonoy" Yulo Jr., former president of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), corroborated that:

- He met with the President on Feb. 14, 2000 in Malacañang where the President told him and Ruben Almadro, head of the PSE Compliance and Surveillance Group (CSG), that Dante Tan had bribed Perfecto Yasay, then chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- He and Almadro met with Yasay and Tan at Ciudad Fernandina on Nov. 26, 1999 at the height of the BW scandal.

But the President yesterday denied knowledge of an alleged bribe attempt to clear Tan.

Mr. Estrada said that the PSE officials had not been "invited" to the Palace but attended voluntarily to explain details of the Tan report.

Yulo also revealed that Mr. Estrada phoned him four times in an apparent effort to elicit a favorable decision for Tan as the CSG was winding up its probe of the BW Resources stock scandal.

Yulo said the President made phone calls on Nov. 17 and 18, 1999 and on Nov. 22 and 23, 1999 during which the President repeatedly said that Tan was a "good friend" who had helped him even before he became President.

Yulo said the President was more adamant on Nov. 23.

"This time around, he was a little bit more insistent, Your Honor, and he told me '*sabi ni Dante Tan, ay hindi siya nagmamanipula ng stocks at siya daw ang biktima nito at meron daw P2 bilyong ang lugi niya dito sa BW* (Dante Tan said that he did not manipulate the stocks and that he was the victim as he lost P2 billion)," the former PSE presidentsaid.

YULO/ A11

Cayetano grabs limelight in impeach trial

BY RAUL J. PALABRICA

ANALYSIS

THIS time it was the turn of Sen. Rene Cayetano to hog the limelight at the trial. In a move that was alien to the impeachment proceedings, he took the floor, a la privilege speech, to defend himself from charges by Dante Tan that he illegally profited in the millions from the BW stock transactions.

Cayetano's action was allowed by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. though it had no relation to the purpose of the court. It was another case of the senator-judges bending the rules if a colleague is personally involved on a matter beyond the court's jurisdiction.

The centerpiece of the trial proper was the interest shown by President Estrada in the investigation by the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) of Dante Tan, his close friend and the majority stockholder of BW Resources Inc.

The purpose for which Ruben Almadro, former head of the PSE's Compliance and Surveillance Group and Jose Luis Yulo Jr., former PSE president, became clearer upon the completion of Yulo's direct examination.

Tan was being pictured as a close friend of the President for whom the latter was willing to go out on a limb to help. Tan got into trouble with the PSE for stock manipulation and violation of securities law.

So the President went to Tan's rescue by vouching for his integrity with ex-Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. and Yulo. The President's action constitutes interference in the

CAYETANO/ A11

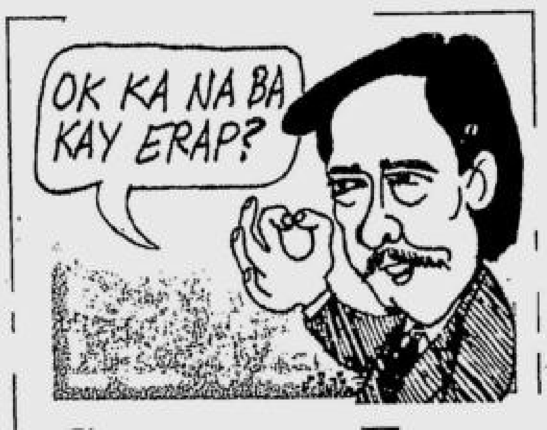
'Garcia' account 'destroyed'

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

AN ACCOUNT of "Kevin Garcia" with Allied Bank had a deposit of P99 million that suddenly dwindled to P9 million after the account was linked to President Estrada, reports reaching the INQUIRER yesterday said.

Employees of Allied Bank confirmed the existence of the account

GARCIA/ A11


OK KA NA BA KAY ERAP?

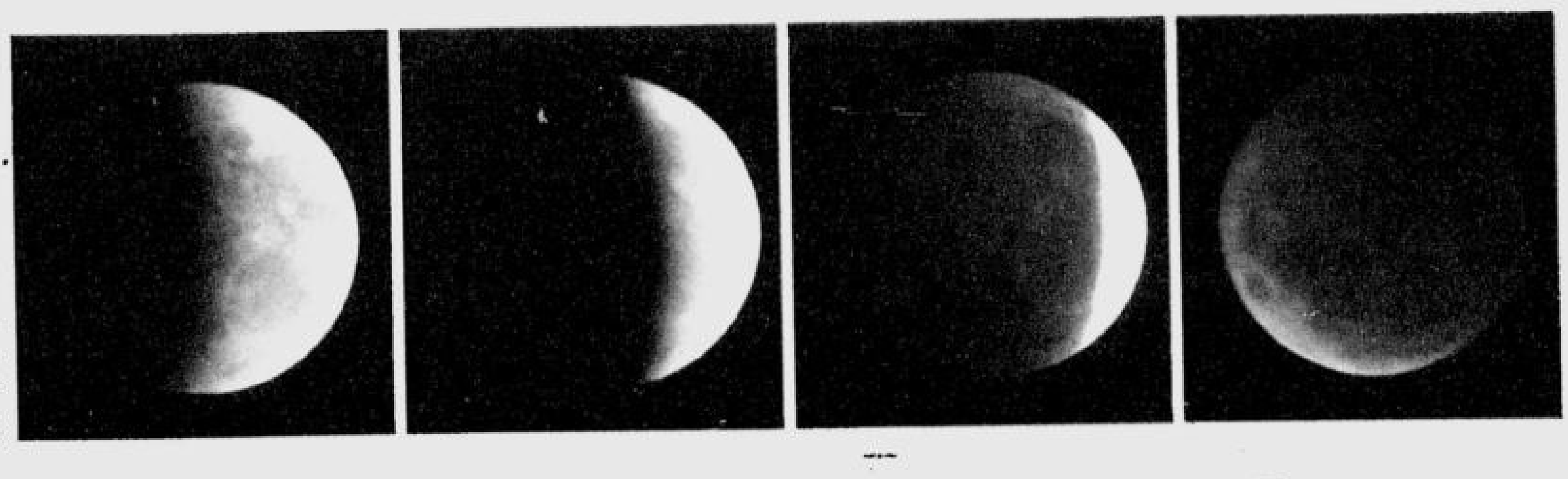
Sotto says Erap circle sign 'OK'

BY ROCKY NAZARENO AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

AMONG Filipinos, a gesture with thumb and forefinger forming a circle clearly means that money has changed hands.

This was what prosecution witness Ruben Almadro told reporters yesterday by way of contradicting Senator-Judge Vicente Sotto's earlier contention at the impeachment trial that the signal was

SOTTO/ A12



LUNAR ECLIPSE OVER SEMIRARA

Lunar eclipse in sequence—from the partial coverage of a full moon to its total eclipse at 4:35 a.m. Wednesday. Photographed over the projected dumpsite of Metro Manila garbage in Semirara, Antique, the eclipse foreshadows the obliteration of an idyllic landscape.

EDWIN BACASMAS

It's still Semirara for Metro trash unless...

BY JOWEL CANUDAY, HAZEL VILLA AND JAY BANLIG
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Is there something that Robert Aventajado, President Estrada's adviser on flagship projects, does not know?

Aventajado said Tuesday that Semirara Island in Antique was still the most viable dumping site for Metro Manila's garbage, but that the government would back off if the courts ruled against it.

"*Kung talagang wala nang magagawa* (If there's nothing to be done), we have no choice," he said.

But yesterday in San Jose, Antique, lawyer Manuel Gaite, Aventajado's undersecretary, told the INQUIRER that the metropolis' garbage would be dumped on Semirara on Jan. 18, when the 20-day temporary restraining order (TRO) expires.

Gaite said the dumping project would push through "with or without the resolution" of the Antique Regional Trial Court on the preliminary injunction being sought by groups opposed to it.

He said the environmental management plan, a temporary environment compliance certificate issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, was enough reason for the Metro Manila Development Authority to implement the project.

Aventajado said the planned waste facility in Semirara would not solve the garbage problem of Metro Manila.

He said the problem could only be solved if the government succeeds in its solid waste management program.

According to Aventajado, the best way to reduce garbage in the metropolis is waste segregation, recycling and composting, the major components of the program.

IT'S/ A12

'WAG SANA'NG LUMAKI ANG GIYERANG 'YAN !!!

MILF fires first salvo

VAL HANDUMON

PRESIDENT Estrada holds Andres Bonifacio's bolo during a trial at the Biak-na-Bato Park in San Miguel, Bulacan.

As army girds for action, rebels shell power plant

COTABATO CITY—Two Army divisions are gearing for renewed offensives against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Central Mindanao following reports of rebel movements and an attack near a power plant in Lanao del Norte. Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Cotabato City, said a "big number" of rebels were sighted in Carmen and Kabacan towns in North Cotabato and in the Talayan-Datu Piang-Shariff Aguak complex in Maguindanao.

"Our intelligence reports show the rebels are planning big. We have to be prepared," Ando told the INQUIRER.

The military preparations involved the 6th ID and the Army's 4th ID based in Cagayan de Oro, the main forces in last year's "all-out war" against the MILF.

In Lanao del Norte, Moro rebels led by Abdullah Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo, fired mortar bombs toward the Agus 4 hydroelectric plant in Baloi, Lanao del Norte, early Wednesday

Off target

The bombs landed near military detachments, a kilometer away from the power facility, prompting soldiers to return mortar fire. No one was reported hurt.

"We want to destroy it (in order) to cut off electricity in the entire Mindanao," Macapaar told radio station dxIC in Iligan City.

The seven hydroelectric plants of the National Power Corp. in the two Lanao provinces account for 90 percent of Mindanao's power supply.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview that the attack on the Agus plant was "with the blessings" of the MILF leadership. The target, he said, was near the headquarters of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion.

The cut in power supply, Kabalu said, would have been incidental because "our primary aim was to attack the Army headquarters."

Real target

But he said the MILF leadership had made it clear that attacks should be directed at combatants.

Col. Samuel Bagasin, chief of the 402nd Infantry Brigade, said seven mortar shells landed near the Army detachments in Barangays Nangka and Matampay at 6:30 a.m.

"It was way, way off target. The shells landed one kilometer away from the electric plants," Bagasin said.

He said the soldiers fired back with 15 rounds of mortar shells and in the afternoon, two MG-520 helicopter gunships made two sorties and dropped bombs on suspected rebel positions.

Maj. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the 4th ID, ordered his units in the two Lanao provinces to secure the areas around the power plants.

Checkpoints

Cimatu also directed soldiers to coordinate with the police in setting up checkpoints in Iligan, Ozamiz and Cagayan de Oro cities to prevent an escalation of violence in the urban centers.

On Friday; MILF rebels clashed with militiamen in Barangay Palao, Tubod, Lanao del Norte. Two militiamen were wounded.

Col. Hilario Atendido, spokesperson of the Southern Command, said the troop movements in Central Mindanao were "actually just a reminder to always be prepared to expect for the worst and not to prepare for war."

But in Cotabato, six MG-520 attack helicopters are on alert, along with a rapid deployment force, composed of Marines and Army soldiers backed up by armored personnel carriers.

"(This) is actually a continuation of our previous offensives after the suspension of military operations during the Ramadhan (Islamic holy month of fasting)," he said.

He said the Army would prevent any "terroristic activity, hostage-taking and harassment of civilians."

In Zamboanga City, Chief Supt. Dominador Domingo, police regional director, said a second war in Mindanao, particularly in Lanao and Maguindanao, was "inevitable because lawless elements started to terrorize civilians."

Domingo deployed policemen of the 9th Regional Mobile Group to augment the police force in Lanao del Sur that was securing the three main routes from Tubod, Iligan and Pagadian City.

"It's our priority, that commerce and business will continue at all costs," he said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Froilan Gallardo, Jonathan F. Ma and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PALACE REVAMP

Estrada backs Angara move

BY DONNA S. CUETO

PRESIDENT Estrada yesterday said he supports fully the reorganization being carried out by new Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara at Malacañang, even if some officials close to him have been hurt by it.

While he did not name former Presidential Legislative Liaison Office chair Jimmy Policarpio and Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Ramon Cardenas, the President said he was aware some officials have been adversely affected by Angara's reorganization.

Mr. Estrada also praised Angara, saying the latter's actions and decisions so far prove that he is "really dedicated and determined to help my administration."

"I think I made a good choice," the President said.

"*Magaling, marunong, masipag* ("He's good, intelligent, hardworking") and very sincere. '*Yun ang kailangan* ("That's what we need"), he's very honest," he added.

Asked about the officials Angara demoted in the Office of the President, Mr. Estrada said, "*Siyempre, lahat yan may masasagasaan.* In any reorganization, in any revamp, *siyempre may mga sasagasaan. Di ba?*" ("There will be those who will be run over.")

Angara started the shakeup at the Office of the President when he downgraded the positions of Cardenas and Policarpio, without consulting them or getting their consent.

He said he knew there would be hurt feelings, but "it was nothing personal"—he was just doing his job.

"I'm not a psychologist or a baby sitter. I intend to do what the President asked me to do and, if there is a ripple from those affected, then I'll sit down and talk to them," Angara said.

He named as overall senior deputy executive secretary Luis Liwanag, a career official who had been "frozen out" by former executive secretary Ronaldo Zamora.

Liwanag, in effect, replaced Cardenas, who has been relegated to taking charge of the personal needs of Mr. Estrada and his family and the ceremonial functions of the Presidency.

Angara also clipped Policarpio's powers, after he named former congressman Ramon "Dondon" Bagatsing Jr. deputy executive secretary in charge of public affairs, covering both congressional and local government relations.

Policarpio will be reporting to Bagatsing, Angara said.

Bagatsing replaced Vicente de la Serna who resigned as deputy executive secretary.

Bagatsing, however, would have wider powers than De la Serna had since the latter confined himself to local government relations.

These announcements were made yesterday by Angara, who vowed to cut the number of Cabinet-rank secretaries and agencies under the Office of the President, which, he said, had become too unmanageable.

Senate approves ARMM expansion

BY J. L. JAVELLANA

THE SENATE yesterday approved on third reading the bill allowing the expansion of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao from the present four provinces to 15 provinces and 13 cities through a plebiscite.

Under Senate Bill 2129, the plebiscite for the expanded ARMM was set for May 14 this year simultaneously with the elections for senatorial and local positions.

If new provinces and cities vote for inclusion in an expanded ARMM, the election for officials of the regional autonomous government would be held on Aug. 15 this year.

RP, Indon blasts linked–Lacson

MORO separatists contacted Indonesians recently and may have coordinated holiday bombings that killed 40 people in the two countries, said police yesterday.

"We have established lately that (separatists) were contacting (people) in Indonesia," said Philippine National Police Director Panfilo Lacson. "We may be able to link (Philippine bombings) with the bombings that happened in Indonesia.

"We are coordinating with the Indonesian police now to establish (separatists') contact persons in Indonesia," he told dzRH radio station

Police have said suspects behind both countries' bombings learned their deadly skills in Afghan mujahedeen camps. But they have not directly alleged links between the two groups.

Police have charged seven suspected members of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front in connection with five synchronized bombings that ripped through Metro Manila Dec. 30, killing 22 people and wounding more than 120.

The MILF is the larger of two groups fighting for a separate Islamic state in Mindanao.

In Indonesia, a string of deadly church bombings on Christmas Eve killed 18 and badly injured 84. One suspect is in custody. Indonesian police have said the bombs were politically motivated and not based on sectarian differences.

Indonesia has claimed the holiday attacks there were designed to fan violence between the Christian minority and Muslim majority to destabilize reformist President Abdurrahman Wahid's administration.

A possible link between disgruntled Muslim groups in the Philippines and Indonesia came to light Aug. 1 when a car bomb exploded outside the Jakarta residence of Philippine Ambassador Leonides Caday, killing two people and injuring dozens, including the envoy.

In Indonesia over the weekend, bombing suspect Dedi Mulyadi—being held for the Christmas Eve bombings—told investigators that he and two accomplices learned bomb-making at an Afghan mujahedeen camp in the early 1990s, National Police spokesman Saleh Saaf said. *AP*

Erap goes after foes

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—President Estrada has started using the government's financial institutions to put pressure on big businessmen he suspects of being behind moves to oust him.

In ceremonies inaugurating a new bridge here, the President said he has ordered the Land Bank of the Philippines to force its biggest debtors to pay up.

"The elitists won't stop hounding me. Yet it is they who own the firms that have huge debts with government institutions such as LandBank," the President said.

"Now they will no longer be able to borrow money because I have told the government financial institutions not to give out loans to big corporations that have not paid their debts to LandBank," Mr. Estrada said in his speech inaugurating the P16-million bridge.

These business groups, he said, also own the newspapers that attack him daily, unmindful of the negative effects the attacks are having on the economy.

The President said he ordered the LandBank instead to concentrate on giving loans to farmers and small businessmen.

"Stop giving loans to big, greedy corporations," he said.

The President's order to LandBank comes in the wake of his promise last month to release the list of corporations that have piled up huge debts to the government.

He said these corporations belong to the cronies of past presidents.

He said the non-payment of these debts, not the crisis of confidence in his leadership, was the cause of the "worsening" economy.

He assured his audience, made up mostly of farmers and local officials, that he will not let the criticism being thrown his way affect his work.

SLAPPING CASE

House won't expel Gonzalez

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THE HOUSE leadership finds it "too harsh" to expel the overly apologetic San Juan Rep. Jose Ma. Gonzalez, the subject of an ethics committee probe for slapping the chamber's chief security officer during the landmark Nov. 13 session.

And so what began as another humdrum special session at the House became quite tense yesterday afternoon after six committee members walked out of the hearing in protest after their peers broke an earlier "gentleman's agreement" to have Gonzalez expelled.

In a closed-door session, the panel—or what was left of it after the walkout—instead ended up with the recommendation to just "reprimand" Gonzalez.

Since the inquiry began in late November last year, Gonzalez had been apologizing profusely for slapping House sergeant-at-arms Bayani Fabic. The incident was caught on national TV.

Fit of rage

The congressman, a former actor, then explained that he hit Fabic in a fit of rage over the latter's failure to control the uproarious gallery during the Nov. 13 session in which then Speaker Manuel Villar formally referred to the Senate the four Articles of Impeachment against President Estrada.

Quezon City Rep. Dante Liban, one of those who walked out of yesterday's hearing, said that as early as Tuesday's executive session, the panel had already arrived at an informal agreement to have Gonzalez expelled. He said there were nine members in attendance at the Tuesday session.

"But now they broke our gentleman's agreement. In fact, I was the designated *ponente* (tasked to draft the recommendation). The unanimous decision then was to expel (Gonzalez)," Liban said in an interview.

In yesterday's hearing, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon, a congressman identified with the pro-Estrada group, filed a motion for recommendation seeking to change the "expulsion" ruling.

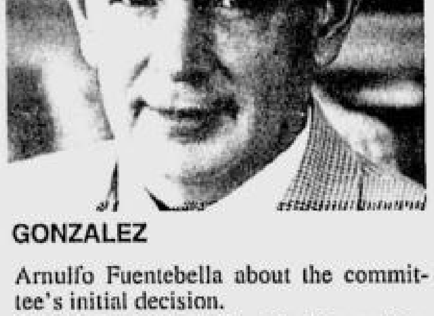
With 16 committee members present, Macarambon's motion prevailed, with seven members voting for it, six rejecting it, and three abstaining.

How they voted

Those who voted "No" were the ones who walked out. According to Liban, these included him, Representatives Patricia Sarenas, Leonardo Montemayor, Magtanggol Gunigundo I, Ronald Cosalan and Rogelio Sarmiento.

Voting in favor of the motion were Macarambon himself and Representatives Gerardo Espina, Leovigildo Banaag, Augusto Baculio, Eduardo Veloso, Marcelino Libanan, and committee chair Alipio Badelles, according to Liban.

In an interview, Macarambon said he filed the motion after he and several other members "consulted" with Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella about the committee's initial decision.


GONZALEZ

Asked what was Fuentebella's reaction, Macarambon said the Speaker found the "decision to be too harsh. Those were his words."

Explaining his own vote to lighten Gonzalez's penalty, the Mindanao congressman said in Filipino: "He has apologized many times in the hearing, in the trimedia. I'm only human, not a machine."

After the walkout, those left in the hearing opened the floor for another vote on Gonzalez's possible penalty. It was then that the body decided to reduce the penalty to a mere reprimand.

The committee will submit its recommendations for another round of deliberations at plenary level.

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Belmonte cries 'dirty tricks'

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE MANAGER of the House prosecution team in the impeachment trial of President Estrada yesterday denounced the charges brought against him before the Ombudsman regarding the sale for P570 million of Government Service Insurance System assets in 1987 as being connected to the impeachment case.

"This is part of the dirty tricks that is associated with this (impeachment) case," said Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte.

Belmonte was yesterday sued for graft and falsification of public documents in the sale of the GSIS-owned Commercial Bank of Manila (Combank) to an investor group during the Aquino administration.

Belmonte was at the time the president and general manager of the GSIS.

Also charged before the Ombudsman yesterday was Dante G. Santos, former chair of the GSIS board of trustees.

Tormentor

It was, however, unclear why the charges were filed only yesterday when the transaction occurred as early as 1987. Even the complainant, a certain German Bacaltos, was virtually unknown.

According to Belmonte, "Bacalso was an employee of the GSIS against whom I took some actions in the past and who has filed a lot of cases against me which I think had all been dismissed by the Ombudsman."

He said the case concerning the sale was apparently a rehash of an old case that had been dismissed by the Omdbusman.

Other members of the prosecution panel said they had expected the charges against Belmonte at a time when certain members of the President's defense panel have become embroiled in certain problems in the course of the trial.

"They are anticipating (problems)," a prosecutor, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

Defense woes

He pointed out that the Fortun brothers—Raymond and Sigfried—are in danger of being cited for contempt. And members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines are studying the possibility of filing charges against Estelito Mendoza for allegations that he participated in an attempted cover-up of the Jose Velarde account at Equitable-PCIBank.

Another member of the defense panel who could face charges could be Chief Justice Andres Narvasa whose name could crop up in relation to a questionable deal entered into by the Philippine National Bank.

Narvasa was the chair of the PNB when it lent money to BW Resources, a firm owned by presidential friend Dante Tan, in exchange for a Tagaytay lot and stocks of BW that are now nearly worthless.

In a two-page affidavit-complaint, Bacaltos asked Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to investigate Belmonte and Santos for complicity in allegedly defrauding the government by entering into an agreement that was grossly disadvantageous to the GSIS.

Bacaltos claimed Belmonte and Santos had allowed an investor group, through the Bank of Boston, to take over the operations of ComBank "at a shockingly low price of P510 million" and that "there was no consideration at all paid to the GSIS."

At the time, GSIS owned 3.216,093 shares of stock, which translated to a 99.9 percent ownership of the bank.

Abu grabs trader

A FILIPINO-CHINESE businessman was abducted by armed men suspected to be members of the Abu Sayyaf Group in Tawi-Tawi, military reports said yesterday.

According to a report sent to the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, chief of the AFP's Task Force Trident, said businessman Steven Chua was abducted last Monday.

Chua, a manager of the Unicon Marketing Corp., was abducted by armed men wearing black bonnets over their heads at around 5:30 p.m. on his way to Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi from the town's wharf.

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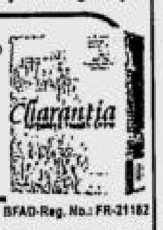
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OPINION

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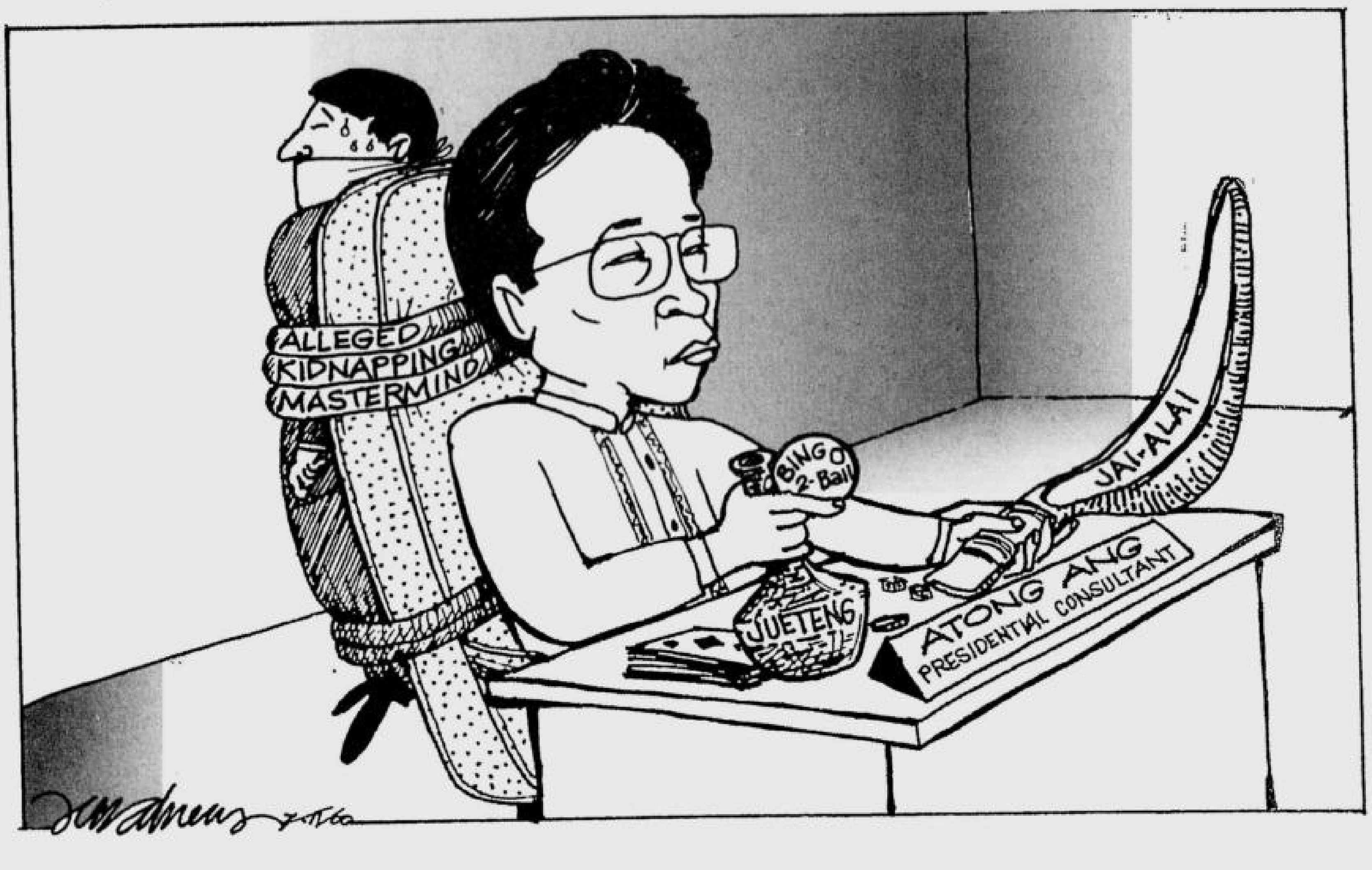

Reckless gamble

EDITORIAL

THE GOVERNMENT has sent fresh troops to Mindanao, apparently in preparation for a new military offensive against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The troop build-up followed, first, the suspension of peace talks with the MILF; and second, the filing of murder charges against MILF leaders in connection with the Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila.

These preparations herald the return to the military hard-line policy against the MILF-Abu Sayyaf that resulted last year in the seizure of the MILF camps in Central Mindanao, allowing the President to recover his plummeting popularity. In the immediate aftermath of the bombings, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police pursued the tack that held the Muslims responsible for the bombings. AFP intelligence agents raided a Muslim community in Quezon City, and rounded up several suspects although they were not sure whether the suspects were being held for their involvement in the bombings or for illegal possession of weapons. The raids were roundly condemned by the media and other groups as a violation of the human rights of the suspects.

PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson, after days of investigation, presented evidence consisting of bomb parts said to have been taken from materials seized from the MILF camps. On the basis of this, Lacson declared that he was "100-percent" sure that the MILF was behind the bombings. In their zeal to implicate the Muslim rebels in the bombings, the AFP and the PNP ignored other possibilities, including the suspicion expressed by the opposition and other critics that groups close to the President could have masterminded the bombings to divert attention from the impeachment trial.

The PNP findings laid the basis for the decision to send back the troops to Mindanao to "flush out" Muslim terrorists who have allegedly carried out their campaign of retaliation in Metro Manila. The administration needed the Muslims as the scapegoats so it can deflect public indignation over the carnage that left 22 civilians dead. The resumption of the "all-out war" on the MILF-Abu Sayyaf serves this purpose.

There's another good reason why the MILF card is being played again. The war was a public opinion winner, and the President is playing it to recover from the slide of his popularity during his impeachment trial.

The prospects of "flushing out" Muslim terrorists are as good as the results of the military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf which, despite the deployment of large forces and bombings in Jolo, has failed to capture the Abu Sayyaf leaders.

Far from being a recipe to recover the President's plummeting popularity, the new offensive in Mindanao has all the manifestations of madness. It is being undertaken under circumstances different from those obtaining in the first offensive.

First, during the earlier campaign, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson had not yet exploded his charges that the President had accepted payoffs from *jueteng*. It was easy for the President to focus attention to and fan chauvinism with a war that was billed as an effort to prevent the partition of the Republic's territory. The government cannot use that argument any more after the seizure of the MILF camps.

Secondly, it is extremely foolish to embark on another war at a time when the budget deficit is spiraling to record levels: P139 billion as of the latest count. The deficit has already breached previous targets, which was first targeted at about P60 billion, then P90 billion, and then P120 billion. The national treasury is strapped for funds. It has suspended expenditures for economic development projects, and it has been forced to just pay the salaries of civil servants and spend for basic operational services. During the all-out war on the MILF, the government spent P30 million a day for at least three months. The surest way for the government to accelerate the plunge into a recession is to reopen a war whose costs, according to economists, shaved off one percentage point from the gross national product.

While Mr. Estrada is battling for the survival of his presidency in the impeachment trial, he has fallen back on an expensive formula to regain popularity. This time, because of the devastating evidence that is being uncovered daily in the impeachment trial, a new war is not going to buy back popularity for him. It is a reckless gamble that could hasten the economy's collapse.

Objection, Your Honor, to Flaminiano's objections

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT is not true that Erap defense counsel Jose Flaminiano is being paid a fixed rate for every objection he interposes during the direct examination of prosecution witnesses. (If that were the case, Flaminiano would be the highest paid among Erap's lawyers, considering the surfeit of objections he unleashes at the trial.) It is just that objecting is the easiest way for a lawyer to show his client that he is working hard for him and earning his fee.

But Flaminiano is giving aspiring lawyers the wrong impression about the noble profession that is law (as did Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago). A student watching Flaminiano perform during the impeachment trial commented: "Is that all one needs to be a lawyer, object *lang nang* object? Anybody can do that."

No, children, that's not the way to be a good lawyer, but if you have no good defense and you see the evidence against your client piling up, the only thing you can do is prevent the admission of more damaging evidence. If evidence is not put on the record, the judge will not consider it in deciding a case. Even if a defendant confesses out of court that he murdered his wife and raped his daughters, if it is not on the record, the judge will pretend that he never said it. That is a quirk in our justice system that allows injustices to be committed. It is as if the judges are deaf and blind.

Thus, if Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. later rules that the testimony of Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo is "immaterial and irrelevant" to the Articles of Impeachment (how can it be "immaterial and irrelevant" when precisely it proves that Erap has unexplained wealth hidden under an assumed name and that he lied in his statement of assets and liabilities?) then that information that the whole world already knows would be stricken off the record. The senator-judges would pretend that they never heard it. What a farce.

That is what Flaminiano is trying to do: prevent damaging evidence from being put on the record and prevent a felon from being convicted. Because of the curious technicalities in court procedures, even if the judge himself personally saw the accused shoot his victim and a smart defense lawyer is able to prevent that fact from being put on the record, the judge would pretend that he never saw it and acquit the killer. Under the logic of Erap's defense panel, if the killer were charged with murder but the prosecutors forgot to put in detail in the complaint how he did it, that fact would not be admitted as evidence because it is "immaterial and irrelevant" to the complaint.

To the layman, this is a horrible misapplication of justice, but to the stilted, illogical and straitjacketed mind of a lawyer (and, ironically and woefully, also of judges and justices), this is perfectly acceptable.

That is why miscarriages of justice are aplenty in our country. That is why guilty persons go free and innocent persons go to prison, sometimes even to the execution chamber. Isn't it time we changed the rules so that justice will be served?

* * *

This is true: I have two bank accounts with Citibank starting when I was managing editor of The Evening News years ago and the Port Area branch of Citibank was just across the street from our offices. I put all my life's savings at that time there. While I was abroad years ago, the Port Area branch was closed and transferred elsewhere (where I never knew). I have not terminated those accounts until now.

This is now fantasy and wishful-thinking: Those accounts with millions of pesos in Citibank under the names of Loi Ejercito, Kelvin Garcia, Jose Velarde and other still undiscovered names which prosecutors claim actually belong to the First Family can be explained. Erap and Loi could be telling the truth: those deposits don't belong to them and therefore they did not commit any crime and Erap should not be impeached. They could be mine.

Why the change in the name of depositor? Simple confusion. When the branch was transferred, the records could have been mixed up.

I never had the millions to put in those deposits but, who knows, my modest deposits may have grown through the years because of accumulated interest. After all, they have been with Citibank for many years.

I have not paid any taxes on them—although the bank retains a 20-percent withholding tax on the interest—but, as I promised for the Jose Velarde account in Equitable PCI Bank, I am willing to pay all the back taxes, plus all interests, penalties and surcharges, if I would be allowed to withdraw a portion of the deposits—if I can find the right branch.

If Flaminiano and the other Erap defense lawyers want to use me as defense witness to prove that those questioned bank deposits don't belong to Erap and Loi, I am willing to do that—provided the Fortun brothers don't spring another surprise and Flaminiano does not object too much during cross-examination. I impose only one condition: That I be allowed to withdraw my deposits.

* * *

TODAY's Erap joke:

Similarities between Erap and Brother Mike:

1. Both love the poor.
2. Both collect money from the poor.
3. Both are now billionaires courtesy of the poor.

The President's new deputy

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

THE ASSUMPTION of office of Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, although intended to bring in a fresh wind into Malacañang, has not been without controversy.

Secretary Angara apparently prepared very carefully before agreeing to move from the Department of Agriculture. He was determined to avoid the historic tension existing between the Presidential Management Staff (the executive secretary within) and the personal staff of the President, on the one hand, and the Executive Secretary (the E.S. without) on the other. This tension plagued almost every executive secretary of Fidel Ramos and continued into the first two years of the Estrada presidency.

This struggle traditionally arises out of the battle of competing individuals for supremacy in the Palace or, occasionally, from a president's administrative style. The problem is exacerbated when a new executive secretary is appointed midterm in an administration. An executive secretary who comes in with a new president has a hand in selecting all the key appointees he will work with in the Palace. A successor has to live with at least some of the existing personnel and can, at best, make changes at the margins.

Moreover, President Estrada's administrative style has heretofore been to let his officials compete rather than cooperate. The advantage for him is that he remains the sole and final arbiter of decisions, and that competition fosters checks and balances and keeps him informed. The dangers are bickering, infighting, a public perception of disarray and administrative confusion.

Ed Angara, who is a shrewd and experienced politician, well understands where the levers of power are. He is, however, much more than just another replacement for Ronnie Zamora. He is also a key leader of the LDP, a political party whose continued cooperation with, or at the least acquiescence to the Estrada administration is important in the impeachment trial, in the May elections, and in the remaining three years of the Estrada term of office. This has allowed him to exert more than the usual influence under these unusual political circumstances.

He has used that influence to procure somewhat more than his mere transfer from the agriculture department. He has secured the appointment of a successor—incidentally an experienced and highly regarded professional—of his choice in the post. More significantly, he has persuaded the President to appoint his former chief of staff, Macel Fernandez, as PMS head. This consolidates under his control two of the three most important levers of power in Malacañang, the third being the President's personal staff.

Nonetheless, in this attempt to present the image of a new Palace staff marching to the same beat, Secretary Angara, and beyond him, the President, have stumbled into the exact opposite problem. They have somehow managed to create the impression in some quarters that Angara is not only an executive secretary but a de facto prime minister, or even president in all but name.

That misimpression has been strengthened by reports that the executive secretary is asking the President to sign a new executive order greatly expanding his authority in the Palace by, among others, placing all presidential assistants under him.

This situation is a dangerous one for both the executive secretary and the President. No president can long tolerate the impression that he is not running his own administration or that he has, by and large, abdicated his political and legal supremacy to a subordinate appointed by him. Nor will that subordinate long remain in office if his boss is humiliated into a position where the public believes that the king is not king.

Any attempt to exercise supreme power unwarrantedly is never appreciated, whatever its benefits to the superior. As Winston Churchill, then prime minister, tartly commented on his overbearing supporter Lord Beaverbrook, "there but for the grace of God, goes god."

Even if Angara manages to avoid these political shoals, there are other difficulties he faces. The most important is that no one in Malacañang, however august his title or whatever the letter of administrative orders, exercises power without the consent of the president. The personal relationship between the president and his executive secretary, and the trust between them, is the true basis for success. Angara must ensure, above all, that that trust subsists.

The second problem is that the inner personal staff of the president is not within the executive secretary's control, nor will any president likely open that innermost of sanctums to his deputy's control. Since these individuals are not close to Angara, he must try to carve out a working arrangement with that staff, and vice-versa. The risk if they cannot is intercine warfare, intrigues and a return to the problems of the past.

The same need for trust and a working relationship holds true in his relationship with the line cabinet members. The difficulty of the present setup lies in the fact that President Estrada's executive secretary is not the President's own man but a political figure in his own right. This is an unusual arrangement that is understandable only under these peculiar conditions.

The average tenure of an executive secretary from President Quezon's time has been a little more than a year. More recently, President Aquino and President Ramos each had five executive secretaries in their respective six years of office. Ronnie Zamora's two and a half year-tenure was extraordinarily long by historical standards. The brevity of tenure says much about the perils of being "little president." Angara will have great need of his political skills in his new job.

Divine intervention

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A NEWSPAPER yesterday headlined: "Erap confident of acquittal." I really wonder about this. Over the holidays, a senator whose name is always reported in the pro-acquittal bloc, admitted something very significant to a priest who is counseling the senator's child on a problem. This senator reportedly told the President right after the Dec. 22 testimony of Clarissa Ocampo, "*Wala na kaming magagawa para sa inyo.*"

Since Ocampo's testimony, there have been other prosecution witnesses whose testimonies have been nearly as damning to him. If Estrada exudes confidence, this must be just a case of "*nagpapalakas ng loob.*"

Some analysts opine that at least 11 senators will vote for acquittal, so that a "post-acquittal scenario" is now being talked about. This may not be an accurate reading, for the above episode indicates that some of those closest to the President in the Senate may now be thinking of abandoning him. After the damning testimonies, I cannot see anyone among the senators going out on a limb for him. Except perhaps for millions of reasons, but that would be so obvious.

* * *

Rep. Joker Arroyo has been talking about "divine intervention" in explaining certain "*hulog ng langit*" developments, beginning with Ocampo's surprise testimony. For instance, the buzz is that as they were scrutinizing the Estradas' bank accounts, the prosecutors discovered a new bank account whose size compares to the Velarde combo account in Equitable PCI Bank! Then too, the prosecutors never imagined that bank cashier Caridad Rodenas would disclose that Alma Alfaro has been doing countless telegraphic transfers for Atong Ang's mother, Catalina, thus linking the three Ang employees to the P130-million excise tax.

All these developments have made the prosecutors suddenly very religious, at least in the way they talk. Overheard was Joker asking private prosecutor Romy Capulong, who is perceived as "leftist" because of his lawyering for leftist clients, "Romy, *naniniwala ka ba sa Diyos?*" Replied Capulong, "Of course."

* * *

The consensus is that if anyone could link President Estrada to those mansions, it is topnotch interior designer Chito Antonio, since he has worked very closely with Estrada, who has a mania for details, in building those mansions. Unimpeachable sources say that to keep Antonio from testifying on those mansions, he was given airline tickets, complete with a visa worked out personally by Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, and a generous *pabaon*, to while away the months abroad late last year. Well, Chito, who is used to working hard, finally got tired of bumming around abroad and has returned. Friends lost no time trying to persuade him to be a witness for the prosecution, but he's understandably hesitant.

* * *

The fortune of the Fortun brothers might change indeed. Ever since Sen. Franklin Drilon said on TV the other day that he was thinking of filing contempt charges against the young defense lawyers, he has been bombarded with calls encouraging him to do so. I was in Drilon's office that afternoon to ask about his plan to file the charges, and he showed me the list of callers from across the country, including lawyers' groups, urging him to act against Fortun.

It is obvious that the people share the anger of a number of senators who denounced the deception foisted by the defense lawyers. The dirty trick has boomeranged on Sigfrid Fortun, who apparently has a reputation in legal circles for employing such tricks.

* * *

Assuming Drilon files the contempt charge, it would be interesting to see how the Senate tribunal presided over by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. will treat it, in the light of recent happenings. The tribunal was quick to expel the three spectators from the gallery on the mere say-so of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, although a number of people were willing to testify that she erred in accusing the three of casting "provocative glances" at her. The Senate was also quick to condemn the left-wing ralliers the other day, despite the fact that the bus driver, who obviously was under the influence of liquor, appeared to have provoked the trouble when he virtually rammed his bus through the group of demonstrators. The driver's action angered the ralliers, prompting one of them to punch him in the face. The driver then pulled out a pipe and an ice pick, as the TV footage showed.

* * *

The melee caused the tribunal to prohibit the staging of rallies in front of the Senate. Predictably this ban has drawn vigorous protests from the citizens' groups, which felt that their side hadn't been heard as in the case of the three spectators.

Davide, whom this columnist lauded in earlier columns for his even-handed handling of the trial, is becoming an enigma at this stage. So is Senate President Nene Pimentel. Both are understandably eager to ensure orderly proceedings and want a place in history. But in so doing they have failed to give due process to citizens whose rights have been violated.

* * *

Senator Santiago has threatened to file charges before the Ombudsman against two representatives who had interceded in behalf of the expelled spectators through letters sent to the Senate. She did not name them, but these are Representatives Heherson Alvarez and Raul Gonzalez. Santiago said that by their mediation, they were acting as counsel for the spectators, which is prohibited by the Constitution. She is, of course, taking a very narrow interpretation of the law, but I doubt if she can intimidate the two congressmen. Alvarez, whose brother was killed during the martial law regime, fought Marcos here and abroad when Santiago was still working abroad with Kokoy Romualdez. "I don't scare easily," he told the media. Besides, Alvarez pointed out, one of those expelled, Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, was an original complainant in the impeachment resolution that he authored at a time when very few people wanted to sign it. Jimenez came forward then, and now Alvarez feels he has to help Jimenez out.

On the other hand, Gonzalez as a former tanodbayan, has clashed with personalities far bigger than his Ilongga *kasimanwa*.

* * *

Fr. Dave Clay of Retrouvaille Philippines said he received many calls from couples with troubled marriages after I wrote recently about the Retrouvaille marriage-healing weekend seminars scheduled for tomorrow up to Jan. 14 in Tagaytay (this column has made helping troubled marriages an apostolate). The inquiries came from as far as Davao, Cebu and Baguio. But Father Clay still hopes to receive a call from Malacañang in response to his invitation to President Estrada and the First Lady to join the Retrouvaille program. He says that if the Estradas can't make it now, there are other Retrouvaille weekends scheduled for this year: March 9-11, May 11-13, July 13-15, Sept. 14-16 and Nov. 9-11. They can all Father Clay at 532-3761, Ruby del Castillo at 931-8413 or Tessie Reyes at 0917-538-8970.

Another bombshell

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BOMBSHELLS seem not to stop coming in the course of the impeachment hearings. The latest is the revelation, or claim (depending on whose side you are), of Sen. Rene Cayetano that the President had approached him to plead in behalf of the accused in the Vizconde trial. Cayetano, if you recall, served as a private prosecutor in the case. And among the accused was Hubert Webb, son of former Sen. Freddie Webb who was, and maybe still be, a good friend of Erap's.

It's clear the revelation or claim was made only in the wake of a seeming attempt by Malacañang to tar Cayetano's reputation by tagging him as one of those who benefited from the BW stock scandal. Which begs the question: Why did Cayetano keep quiet all this time about this clearly improper if not illegal action of the President? And would he have kept it "close to his heart" if he hadn't been provoked by the attempt to link him to the BW scandal?

My own view is that, regardless of the circumstances that led to the bombshell, we can only be grateful that the story came out at all, not to say at this time.

* * *

IT'S too late, of course, to include this alleged impropriety among the impeachment charges. But we can take Cayetano's bombshell as just another in a series of improprieties, if not crimes, that the President has committed in just the first two years of his term. How many more would he commit if allowed to stay on for four more years?

If Cayetano's story is true, I'm boggled by the implications of the tale. Could the President have been so arrogant, and so heedless of political reality, to have approached a senator from the opposition party to do him a favor on such an explosive case? The picture painted is that of a President who thought his election to the highest office in the land had made him so powerful that he could flout the law without fear of the consequences.

* * *

ONE of the things that struck me, even as early as during the blue ribbon committee hearings, was how early in the Erap administration the anomalous transactions began.

The withdrawals from Land Bank, covering the President's alleged "cut" from the tobacco industry fund, were done in August 1998, just two months after Joseph Estrada took his oath of office. I was scandalized that almost from the first minute—if not even before—he took office, the President had started planning how he could make money for himself, his families and his cronies and sponsors, either from government transactions or illegal activities such as *jueteng*.

Also, while the withdrawals were made, Chavit Singson, Atong Ang and the President were still thick as thieves. As Singson confessed, the falling-out with the President and Ang took place only late last year, after the President ignored Singson's request to exempt his province from Bingo 2-Ball or at least not to put his bitter political enemies in charge of this form of "legalized *jueteng*." The decision to go public on "Juetengate" was made only after what he perceived to be a botched assassination attempt by the police. But before then, things were still hunky-dory among the trio.

To say then, as Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago did to radio interviewers, that the defense has succeeded in "proving" that Singson "framed up" Ang in the Land Bank withdrawals is stretching logic or conspiracy theories a bit much.

Ang is supposed to have been "framed" since it was supposedly Singson who informed the Land Bank to allow the withdrawal of a total of P130 million by three people. One of them, Delia Rajas, turns out to have been using the name of the cook of Ang's mother, which fact the defense seems to be pointing out, could mean that Singson used the name of an Ang household employee to implicate Ang in the anomalous siphoning of government funds.

* * *

BUT why would Singson do such a thing? At the time the withdrawals were made, he was still good friends with Ang and the President. Why would he want to frame a good friend two years before he would act on the matter?

And is it possible that Ang did not know that the name of his mother's cook was used to withdraw millions from a fund, involving complicated arrangements, which money, if Singson is to be believed, Ang himself later delivered personally to the President?

One question that has kept bugging me: How on earth could Singson have known the full name of the *kusinera* of Atong Ang's mother? It struck me while I was watching the "real" Delia Rajas testify that through the years my family has had household help, only rarely did I ever come to find out or remember the surnames of our own cooks, laundresses or *yayas*.

Also, the name "Delia Rajas" first came out in October, during the blue ribbon committee hearings, which Ang at some point attended himself. Why didn't Ang or the "real" Delia Rajas come out and say at the time: Wait a minute, that's me! or That's my mother's cook!

Interviewed after the dud of a bombshell that the defense sought to cook up, Singson made a pertinent observation. If he was going to use a dummy or dummies for the withdrawals, he would have used the name of his own cook, not that of Atong Ang. And, indeed, as the testimonies of Emma Lim and Menchu Itchon showed, Singson has the habit of hiring only people whom he has known for a long time or with whom he has family ties, especially since they would be involved in shady activities. Why would he then break this habit and inclination of a lifetime to trust a stranger using the name, of all people, of the cook of a friend's mother?

Lawyers and journalists

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"I AM not a lawyer but..."

Many people often start their sentences this way when they comment on the impeachment trial of President Estrada. TV talk show hosts often say it. Even senators who are not lawyers sometimes use the phrase to preface their questions to the witnesses. I have caught myself saying this, too, before I go on to stress a point.

During this impeachment season, it is as if we, non-lawyers, have suddenly developed an inferiority complex. The Freudian among us would probably say we are suffering from lawyer-envy or some (fru)stration complex. (Pun intended). Saying "I am not a lawyer but..." then proceeding to give one's "two cents' worth" (and people often add this phrase, too) reveals apprehension that one might be wrong. It is self-deprecating in a way. The one talking is afraid someone more erudite and knowledgeable (like, say, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago or some chest-thumpers in the Senate) might suddenly spring from his seat and lividly remind him about his ignorance of the law.

But the phrase could also be a subtle way of saying, "I also understand what is going on and I should be able to comment on it even if I am not a lawyer." It is also a way of soliciting affirmation: "I am not a lawyer but...am I not correct?"

Of course, the phrase could also suggest that lawyers do not have the monopoly of knowledge of the law, grammar and syntax, erudition, articulateness and, if I may add, good diction. The one suggesting this could even scornfully add that many lawyers are in fact experts in obstruction and obfuscation.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a military man used to crisp and terse commands, at one point said, cut the legal gobbledygook. Sen. Ramon Revilla, an actor of *anting-anting* fame, could have rephrased it by saying, "*Maysado kayong, ika nga, mawers-wers.*" And from Sen. Robert Jaworski who made a fast break from the hard court to the Senate: "Stop dribbling and shoot."

But many have noted that it was Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, a former TV journalist, and a few non-lawyers among the judges have asked the questions that elicited damning answers from the witnesses. These non-lawyers were able to extract the information that the lawyers did not get. They were able to draw out not just hard facts, but also the context whence these all came.

Which brings me to the point that facts and figures, by themselves, may be enough for lawyers and judges, but they are not satisfactory for journalists and the people at large who are watching the screening of this great national soap opera. If the prosecutors and judges could only hear what the TV *mirons* of this country are dying to ask.

I remember those times during martial rule when human rights groups conducted fact-finding missions to look into violations committed by the Marcos military. In the group there were always lawyers, health practitioners, religious and journalists. The lawyers always led in the investigation and the interview of the victims and witnesses. They would ask questions like, what time did this happen, how the soldiers came, did you know their names, where did they hit you, how many shots did you hear, etc. It was all very thorough, in sequence. You'd think you got it all in your notebook and tape recorder.

But if you were a journalist doing a feature story, you wanted more. And so I would join the doctors when they examined the victims. I wanted to see more closely the marks of the steel brush on someone's forehead. Maybe something that had not been said would be said. Later, I would speak with the victims separately, maybe under a tree or by the fireside at night.

In the 1980s I was with some human rights lawyers on a trip to a Mindanao village that had just been overrun and ransacked by soldiers. The residents were hesitant to speak out. They were beating around the bush. I did not press. Then one nervous woman blurted out, "All I remember is that the chickens flew away."

That was a quote to die for. If I were a journalist pretending to be a lawyer, that would have prompted me to say to the judge, "No more questions, Your honor." Of course, the woman was just beginning to communicate.

And then there was this elderly peasant who was suspected to be an informer. He was telling us his story in Visayan. The soldiers did not inflict physical pain to extract information, he said, instead, they made him go up and down the coconut tree. This was more painfully cinematic than a crucifixion, if you ask me. And then they asked him to masturbate, he said.

We were all quiet. What did you do? I asked. He sang them a church hymn.

His eyes were dry while he was telling us about this. Sing the song for us, I asked. He did. It was the saddest song I have ever heard. It was about the dawn breaking.

Later, the soldiers brought him to a military camp for questioning. They released him the next day. Before going home he asked for his shoes. "They gave me back my shoes," the peasant said to us, "but the socks were gone." Another quote to die for.

This happened more than 15 years ago and I have not forgotten. I have immortalized those words somewhere, in history disguised as journalism.

When Legarda-Leviste asked star witness Clarissa Ocampo why she came forward to testify, we all expected Clarissa to simply say, fear for her life (which she said) or something more heroic. The simple question stoked something deeper inside her. It was as if she was waiting for that to be asked so that she could finally say more. And she did.

Here's something from a book I often dig into. The most profound question one writer asked a revolutionary fighter who survived the battle of his life was not how bloody difficult it was or how he won the battle. It was: "Were you afraid?"

Life and the Great Beyond

YOUNGBLOOD

Eric Rahim D. Detuyatu

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

IT was on the fateful dawn of July 14,1998 that the reality of death and the cruelty of man to his fellowman hit me. I can still recall the scene of the incident, the emotion and the tension running high and the human response to tragedy and confusion.

It was around 3:15 in the morning that we heard our neighbor's daughter calling out for help because apparently burglars had broken into their house. As a safety measure, I called up the police first. They arrived 10 minutes later and went quickly about their task.

I was still sleepy and a bad cold was bothering me. My nose was runny and I was coughing. My mother instructed me to open the gate and guide the policemen to where the neighboring house was located. Together with my dad, we went out and pointed to the house. I walked behind the policemen and when they began to surround the area, I moved backwards. I waited cautiously and anxiously for any development.

After 10 minutes, a policeman came out and declared that everything was fine. But he showed me a chopping knife that he said he found lying on the floor.

Then, it happened. Another policeman cried out: "*Ilabas n'yo ang kotse.*" He was referring to our car.

At this moment, my heart started to beat faster. I began to panic. My dad took the car keys and drove the car out.

The next scenes were straight out of the movies. One by one, the bodies of our bloodied and semi-conscious neighbors, including an 8-month-old baby, were taken out.

By this time I was already wide awake. I tried to deny everything mentally but when the police handed the body of one of the victims to me, I accepted the fact and reality that this was indeed happening. I was filled with a variety of emotions: pity, anguish, sadness, fear, apprehension, anger at the culprits and even joy that there was a good chance that the victims would survive.

They were a typical family consisting of the father, the mother, a son and three younger sisters. The room was a picture of horror, with blood splattered in almost every conceivable place. If I did not have faith at that time, I would have gone insane.

To this day, the emotions are still fresh, because as neighbors we were close and I even had a sentimental bond with the mother and the baby. The last time we talked, I was on my way to school. I had this habit of cuddling the baby and kissing her when I passed by their house.

Now they are gone. The mother died on the spot from a knife wound and several hammer blows to her head. The baby who suffered several injuries died just minutes after her mother was laid to rest. Doctors said the baby had a good chance of survival but the Almighty had other plans. Because of her frail body, she did not survive the complications after brain surgery. Spiritually speaking, it was a mother and child bonding in death.

The other children have recovered quickly from their injuries but their father is having a harder time. As for the killers, they are still free, imprisoned only in their self-made cages of guilt and remorse. Talk about beasts in human forms.

The next painful task now is how to tell the children that their mother and their little sister are gone. They often inquire about them and are eager to see them. They have been told they were being treated in another hospital. There is vengeance in their eyes.

So now, what are the implications of these events to us or to others who had a first-hand experience of this horrible tragedy? What are the lessons I learned or relearned? What does it lead me to, answers or further questions?

Death is often described as the cessation of life. No matter how negatively we view death, it seems to us that death could either render our life meaningful or meaningless. It was centuries ago that the question of what is the meaning of life or the purpose of existence launched a thousand religions and philosophical viewpoints. But really, what does it mean to be alive, when at anytime we might die?

Death has a nature that man seems to dread. First is the unpredictability of when and where death will come. We cannot delay death and the causes that lead to it may be simple or complicated. We know of people dying in their sleep. Some are killed violently. Some choose to die and others, whom we consider to be the lucky ones, die of natural causes, such as old age or a lingering illness. But what if we die suddenly, without preparation and expectation, like being robbed by a thief in the night?

Secondly, death is beyond our control and freedom. No matter who we are, whether we like it or not, someday we will die. In death, everyone is equal. And nothing could be so natural as death.

It helps a human being to realize that there is an end of the road and he will reach it some day. This something unavoidable. It is the realm of the unknown.

While we are still alive and kicking, we may well ask ourselves, what is really essential? Are we created only to die and be forgotten? When death stares us in the face, we worry about leaving our loved ones behind, some unfinished tasks, things to be fulfilled, our work and of course the important things we still have to do or finish.

We may well stop for a while and ponder if we are ready to die. Are we living, working and exerting effort in this worldly life just to keep us going, promoting life and avoiding death? How do we look at ourselves—only as humans having a spiritual experience or as spiritual beings having a human experience?

Let us be honest with ourselves in giving the reasons we are afraid to die. Sooner or later we will realize that indeed we are lucky to have been given the chance to live and experience things we both love and hate, and things that make us happy, sad, lonely and sometimes guilty.

This kind of tragedy is helpful in the sense that it leads us to confront our mortality and helplessness as a human being. I firmly believe in life after death or the Great Beyond. Death is just a door to the infinite or eternal life with the divine. This belief is essential for otherwise everything would be useless and meaningless, except for the good memories we have and the special deeds we did for others.

Death must be viewed in a positive manner since it is only through death that our worst fears are vanquished, including death itself. This realization gives me a strong motivation to do something noble and good to my fellowmen. I am already thinking of a grand death not because many will attend my funeral but because I did all I had to do and I have become what I wanted to be. Life on earth sucks, so the only way to get even is to be sucked out. It is here where morality and spirituality derive value and assume an important role. Everything will die or fade and the only thing that will be left is the face of the divine, by whose judgment our deeds, actions and how we live our temporary life will be rewarded or condemned.

Sometimes even saints wish to avoid death since it will stop their divine service although not their union with the divine. Right now, we plead for life, struggling against good and evil and exerting efforts to know who we really are and who we should really be.

The deaths of the mother and her baby will not be in vain. This is because one person who loved them and knew them very well learned a great lesson in life that cannot be found in universities or books. Its impact brought a change in him. Some wisdom was the first thing it gave him, but the important thing it taught him was to express love to everyone and not to hate anyone lest it be too late to repent and say sorry. It made him also value the one life he has by offering it to others through service and good conduct. For it is only by doing these that his life will be a reflection of the divine. A great lesson indeed.

May God bless their souls and illuminate their graves. May their souls find peace with Him in the great beyond.

Eric Rahim D. Detuyatu, 22, is a registered nurse and teaches Muslim Religious Study at the Ateneo de Zamboanga.

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Grounds for suspension or disbarment

THE ATTEMPTED cover-up of President Estrada's P500-million trust account with Equitable PCI Bank by assigning it to Jaime Dichaves which was done in the office of lawyer Estelito Mendoza on Dec. 13, 2000 was a clear attempt to obstruct, pervert or impede the administration of justice or to evade the fair operation of the law.

This is ground for the suspension or disbarment of any lawyer who planned and concocted the same. This fact, which was elicited by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste from prosecution witness Clarissa Ocampo, cannot be lightly dismissed. It deserves a thorough investigation by the Board of Governors of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for disciplinary action.

The defense lawyers of the President by so acting, realized the impossibility of overcoming the conclusiveness of the presumption, which emanated from the President's acts of signing the trust agreement as "Jose Velarde." He deliberately led anyone to act on such a thing as true and so he cannot now be permitted to falsify it.

The conclusive presumption, which proceeds from Sec. 2, Rule 131 of the Rules of Court reads: "Whenever a party has, by his own declaration, act, or omission, intentionally and deliberately led another to believe a particular thing true, and to act upon such belief, he cannot, in any litigation arising out of such declaration, act or omission, be permitted to falsify it."

Hence, the attempt to cover up by the defense panel of President Estrada.

No senator can ignore the conclusiveness of this presumption no matter how intelligent or bright he or she may be, unless he or she is blind to the law or determined to acquit President Estrada even if he is guilty.—**CEZAR C. PERALEJO, retired RTC judge, Cubao, Quezon City**

LETTERS

A mere transfer of garbage

WE, the clergy and lay people of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI), recognize the long-existing garbage problem in Metro Manila. However, we strongly oppose the dumping of garbage from Metro Manila on Semirara Island, Antique.

The garbage problem in Metro Manila is a long-existing headache of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Estrada administration. The administration cannot find better alternatives to solve this problem other than to look for dumps even as far as the province of Antique.

The MMDA, in collaboration with DMCI Holdings Inc., Celdex of Canada and R-II Builders, is forcing the building of a dump on Semirara Island. The Antique Regional Trial Court has issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the MMDA's plan. The people of Antique, the Tiringbanay Antiqueños in General Santos City, and even the tourism secretary, have strongly declared their opposition to the dumping of garbage on Semirara Island.

Semirara Island and the whole municipality of Caluya have been declared as a marine and turtle sanctuary even as early as the time of President Quezon. They are part of our heritage. They are part of our treasure. Semirara Island and other protected sanctuaries must be protected and promoted.

We strongly oppose the building of a garbage dump on Semirara Island for the simple reason that it will not solve the garbage problem. The MMDA will only pass the garbage problem in Metro Manila with its pollution to the people of Antique and adjoining provinces.

We urge the MMDA to stop making Semirara Island a garbage dump. We further urge the Estrada administration to act decisively on the garbage problem in Metro Manila by making a comprehensive study of better alternatives. We call on our people to support the Antiqueños in their efforts to save Semirara Island by opposing the building of a dump on the island.—**TOMAS A. MILLAMENA, supreme bishop X, Philippine Independent Church, 1500 Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila**

* * *

I AM a young bishop of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente or Aglipayan Church who comes from Antique where Semirara Island is located. I have invited friends from Europe and the United States for a visit and they enjoyed our pristine beaches and clear seawaters. In fact, some of them made good scuba dives in the vicinity of Boracay, including Semirara, Sibay, Caluya and other small islands.

With the decision of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to dump garbage from Metro Manila at Semirara Island, what will happen to the endangered marine species in our protected areas of northwestern Panay? What will happen to the small fisherfolk who depend on the abundance of fish and other marine life for subsistence? How about the future of our children's children?

It is very unfair and unjust to turn our beautiful island into another Payatas. I therefore call all *tumandok kag layas nga mga Antiqueños* to unite in opposing the shipping of garbage to Semirara Island. This coming elections, let us blacklist those candidates who support the pollution and destruction of our beloved historical province.—**OBISPO BART OSORIO ESPARTERO, interinong obispo, Diyosesis ng Lucena, Cabana and Enriquez Streets, Lucena City**

Flicker of the divine

SEVERAL decades ago when I was chair of the UP Student Council (1968-69), one of the students I had a high regard for was Miriam Defensor, who was the editor in chief of the Philippine Collegian.

Those were days of nobility and integrity, when money or a high-paying job was never the objective of a University of the Philippines student. We were out to change the world. We were out to reform the Philippines and try to bring some decency to what we believed was a corrupt and sick society under Ferdinand E. Marcos. We risked our lives and our youth in our quest for a better future, and a few in fact perished for this belief. No amount of money could possibly pay for these sacrifices.

One of those involved then was Miriam Defensor, who is now a senator. Early in her career, after becoming a lawyer, Miriam could have joined any law firm of her choice and made a lot of money, but she chose to work for the Department of Justice under Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos. Thereafter, instead of pursuing a lucrative law practice, she chose to become a regional trial court judge.

I would like to believe that like Miriam, most or a least a majority of the graduates of the UP College of Law, and graduates of other law schools as well, would not give undue importance to money or to a high salary in choosing a career path. I believe that most of the lawyers today have a genuine love for their profession, for justice and for what is right, so much so that monetary considerations play a minor role.

So what happened to Miriam? What transformed her from what she stood for in yesteryears to what she has become today? What prompted her to say that money is the main consideration of UP lawyers in choosing a career path?

We really don't know. It is difficult to judge when we don't know what pressures, trials and burdens forged Miriam as she is today. Perhaps the corrupting influence of this administration was too much.

But all I know is that in Miriam, as in each of us, there will always be that flicker of the divine that makes us yearn to do what is right. It is never extinguished, and one day it could once again become a raging fire. Perhaps that day will come soon, and will be known as Miriam's finest moment, when she votes to convict President Joseph Ejercito Estrada.—**ANTONIO C. PASTELERO, lawyer, Pastelero Law Office, E-1503-B Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Rd., Pasig City**

Remarkable indeed

WHILE watching the drama that is the impeachment proceedings, I looked with dismay as the Jan. 4 events unfolded. In Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's two-minute clarificatory questioning of lawyer Jasmin Banal, what came out was a warped sense of values.

Santiago was questioning Banal's career move from a higher-paying job to a lower-paying one. The senator expressed doubts about the wisdom of such a step, implying that it was incredible. To end her brief privilege speech-cum-clarification, Santiago exclaimed, "Remarkable!" to disparage Banal's response.

Unfortunately for the senator, it was a futile attempt. The more she kept insinuating that it was a foolish move, the more Banal's decision to transfer seemed to be reasonable. Judging from the way Santiago questioned the young lawyer, it appeared as though the only reason for career advancement is money. "Go for green pastures," she seemed to say.

Well, Santiago and the other leaders espousing this view might be interested to know that there are also people who leave green pastures to work on dry, barren soil. Call it youthful idealism, call it quixotic, but if there is one thing that should run a person's career, it should not be money. Of course, it is a major consideration, but it should not be the end goal. Otherwise, the workforce would all turn into green-eyed industrial zombies. But of course our leaders already know this.

I just earned my psychology degree from the University of the Philippines and at present I am inching my way toward my dreams. Appalled as I may be to see such distorted values from our leaders, I believe there is hope. I may not know Banal's reasons for transferring to another law firm, but I am sure she is one of those fanning the flame.

Perhaps, when age starts cooling the embers of my idealism, that is when I will start to think the way Santiago thinks a career move should be. But until then, I shall try to be, indeed, "remarkable."—**DENNISE CHRISELLE CRISTI-AMADO, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

Natural response to inanity

THE ERUPTION of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago on account of the "provocative looks" of some people in the Senate gallery is laughable considering that earlier, she was badgering a witness (lawyer Jasmin Banal) with sarcastic remarks about her career choices. And what about her own "provocative looks" toward star witness Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson?

What is more disturbing was the quick approval by the rest of the senators of the precipitate motion to kick three observers just because they gave the honorable senator-judge a "provocative look."

Regardless of who the three were, they had a right to be there as citizens of the Republic of the Philippines. If they made a visual reaction to inanities or bizarre developments during the hearing, those are just natural responses that do not amount to grave misconduct or disrespect for the "honorable" senators and the proceedings.

As Raffy Alunan once remarked, "It's too early to crack."—**ED DAMES, 23 Bagong Anyo St., De Castro Subd., Pasig City**

The good, the bad and the disgraceful

SEN. Loren Legarda-Leviste scored well for the people with her intelligent and incisive questions to bring out the truth. Although she is not a lawyer, her demeanor drew a sharp contrast to the biased and grandstanding senator-judges, particularly Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile.

Witnesses were harassed and intimidated. Even people in the impeachment crowd were not excused from the spectacle of Santiago going ballistic when she imagined some people in the crowd sneering at her.

It is expected of the defense panel to use every legal technicality in defense of its client. Subterfuge, even intimidation and harassment of witnesses are regular fare for the defense, but to see the biased senator-judges harass or subject the witnesses to insults and ridicule with greater enthusiasm than the defense counsel is downright disgusting. Foremost among them is Santiago. One angry victim who was on the verge of tears was heard saying, "All I did was tell the truth. Maybe she wanted me to lie."

It's amazing how a person, who almost became the president, can be so vile and cannot seem to talk without being obnoxiously arrogant. I voted for her, but thank God, Ramos won.

Only an identified few senator-judges are helping the prosecution to uncover the truth, doing exactly what they are mandated to do. Will the others allow themselves to be used to cover for the President who does not even want to face his accuser?

The impeachment trial is coming to a head. Its dismal failure will be a mockery of the law. If that happens this nation will go down in disgrace and the Filipino people will suffer the deepest humiliation ever suffered by any nation before the eyes of the world. Those who helped bring shame to this nation will have a permanent place in history for being despicably corrupt.—**CESAR M. DE LOS REYES, 45 Fordham St., White Plains, Quezon City**

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Fools and flies

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ERAP'S defense lawyers goofed last Monday, and they goofed because they thought Filipinos were fools.

Trial aficionados and junkies can skip the next four paragraphs where I try to summarize events for those who were not able to follow the proceedings.

Last week, Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson testified that Erap had demanded a percentage for facilitating the release of funds from the tobacco levy. The prosecution lawyers have since been able to piece together a paper trail showing deposits and withdrawals involving Land Bank branches—from Malacañang to Vigan (to Singson) and to Mandaluyong (where, allegedly, the gambling lord Charlie "Atong" Ang was to withdraw Erap's cut).

Ma. Caridad Rodenas, cashier of the Shaw Boulevard branch at the time of the alleged anomalous transactions, has since testified that money had indeed been received from Vigan and deposited in the Shaw Boulevard accounts of persons claiming to be Delia Rajas, Eleuterio Tan (a.k.a. Victor Tan Uy) and Alma Alfaro. The three then withdraw P130 million the day after the deposit. These three were said to be employees of Power Management and Consultancy, a corporation owned and managed by Ang.

On Monday, defense lawyers tried to demolish Rodenas' credibility by asking her to identify Delia Rajas from among the spectators in the gallery. Rodenas made it clear that she would be able to do so only if the Rajas she met in her bank had not changed her appearance since the deposit was made back in 1998. Rodenas walked around the gallery but was not able to identify anyone as Rajas.

Defense lawyers beamed, thinking they had scored a victory but the senator-judges then asked to see who this Rajas was. The defense lawyers balked at first, but eventually had to produce Rajas, who it turned out was a cook working for Atong Ang's mother, Catalina. Rajas was made to testify on the spot.

It was amazing that the defense lawyers actually thought they could get away with accusing Rodenas of lying because she could not identify a woman she had never seen. Even worse, these lawyers thought they could just smuggle Rajas out of the Senate chambers without identifying her. Senators Franklin Drilon and Raul Roco were furious, suggesting that the defense lawyers had been up to dirty tricks.

Even more incredible was the defense lawyers' hypothesis, which Sigfrid Fortun muttered at one point, that the fake Delia Rajas was a Singson employee, i.e., Singson set up this whole masquerade to get Erap into trouble.

Prosecutor Sergio Apostol was being kind when he attributed the defense lawyers' bungling to their youth. But even a kid would have figured it all out. Rajas worked for Atong Ang's mother so who would have been in the best position to use her name for fraudulent activities? After the Rajas fiasco, Rodenas continued with her testimony, during which a real bombshell fell—Rodenas revealed that Rajas, Tan and Alfaro—or, if I may use legal gobbledygook, their facsimiles thereof—were acting in behalf of a principal. That principal was Catalina Ang.

I did want to say something as well about the Delia Rajas that showed up on Monday. Rajas was another reminder of the class divisions I wrote about in my last column. Here was a widow from Camarines Sur robbed of her identity—she used the Tagalog word *pagkatao*, meaning person-ness—and turned into a pawn, albeit unsuccessfully, for the defense. Asked if she had a Social Security System number, she answered yes but the papers had not been given to her. Asked to produce any kind of identification, she showed an Aetna medical insurance card, unsigned, unused and expired. Asked why it took her so long to come out, she said she was not aware of what has been happening, since she doesn't watch television.

Remember she was working in a house in San Juan, Metro Manila, in an affluent household that probably had several television sets, radios, newspapers. But Rajas may as well have been living in a different planet, oblivious to the fact that her name had been used to withdraw P50 million. Rajas earns P2,000 a month.

That's life in the Philippines, as feudal in the 21st century as we were during the Spanish colonial period, or maybe even earlier. We no longer call them *aliping mamamahay*, or serfs, or tenants, but like their counterparts from centuries past, they have little control over their lives.

Watching Rajas on the stand, I thought of something lawyer Katrina Legarda said during one of her astute commentaries on the impeachment. Legarda pointed out the trial testimonies had shown how millions of pesos in hot cash were being moved around with such impunity. The people involved couldn't have cared less about who saw what they were doing. Of the drivers and household help witnessing these movements, Legarda said, "They could have been flies on the wall," their loyalty assured by our feudal values.

I sometimes suspect the defense lawyers, and their client, think of the entire nation not just as fools, but as inconsequential flies on the wall. As long as we stay on the wall minding our own business, then we're ignored. Get a bit too pesky and you may be shooed away and if you persist, well, you get a motion to quash, or get swat (should that be SWAT?) dead.

* * *

Comments can be sent to miguel@pinoykasi.org

Involvement of the religious in political action

MANY are asking: Why is it that so many priests and nuns feel they have to demonstrate, march and get involved in political issues? They contend that they ought to leave that up to us lay citizens. Our individual temperaments, abilities and personal inclinations determine how we fulfill our obligations or in some way, put our lives on the line for man's great needs like peace, social injustice, or caring for the oppressed and poor people. One does not necessarily have to carry signs to be a good Catholic. But if our Christian and Catholic faith has anything significant to offer in forming policies about these great concerns, someone has to shout it from the housetops—or whatever is needed to get these ideals out in the daylight.

If the religious seem to be moving too much out of the sacristy, perhaps it is because they are trying to teach us that when it comes to justice, peace and civic responsibility, our faith demands more specific things than we thought. Our Church does not support religious bloc voting and neither are we instructed for whom to vote. We are simply urged to make decisions ourselves in an informed and conscientious manner, in the light of candidates' positions on certain issues, as well as their personal qualifications.

I always come across complaints that the Church should not meddle in political matters. The Church can allow itself to be above, or ignore the political scene but it is its duty to assist us to understand the Christian and Catholic teachings and to remind us that we are individually responsible for the moral and social consequences of our political decisions.—**PETE N. BELTRAN, P.O. Box 1504, Manila**

Limited slots in conservation meet

WE fully agree with Ansbert Joaquin of the PDI Central Luzon desk who wrote the article, "Aetas urge conservation of wildlife" (PDI, 12/17/00), that indigenous peoples, in this particular case, the Aetas, have their own biodiversity conservation programs. We are aware that they recognize the fact that their lives are closely linked with the conservation of wildlife and that their existence would be in peril if wildlife and their habitat disappear. It is for this reason that the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act recognizes the traditional rights and culture of indigenous peoples within protected areas.

We have taken note of the disappointment expressed by the Aeta groups over the fact that they were not invited to the Biodiversity Conservation Priority Setting Workshop held in Subic last Dec. 4-8, 2000. We would like to inform you that due to fund limitations and manageability of the workshop, we had to limit the participants to representatives of the different stakeholders in the conservation of biological diversity in the Philippines. To ensure that their interests were taken into consideration, representatives from the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples and the Episcopal Commission for Indigenous Peoples, were invited to the said workshop.—**THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM, assistant director and co-convenor, National Biodiversity Conservation Priority Setting Workshop, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

Pinoy scout still looking for pa in Australia

By Beth Pango-Frias

APPIN, Australia—A Filipino boy scout attending the Asia-Pacific Jamboree here spent his first few days in this remote bushland south of Sydney making lots of friends and looking for clues that may lead him to his Australian father.

Aside from wondering why the sun is still up at 8 p.m. and why it gets too cold at night, Robin William Jessup wants to know how long it takes to get to Adelaide, South Australia, the last known address of his father, Rupert Jessup.

"I have asked for help from my fellow scouts and they were very friendly and helpful and they will help me look him up on the Internet and they gave me numbers to call," said Robin, in an interview with Sydney's SBS (Special Broadcasting Service).

The last time father and son saw each other, Robin was three and his sister, Emmalyn, was seven. Rupert, an agronomist, had been assigned to the Philippines as a consultant with the World Bank. He and the kids' mother, Emma Dones, later divorced and the three of them remained in the Philippines.

Rupert's last known address was in Adelaide and if he's still there, his young son said he would fly over after the jamboree to see him.

"Actually, I have no clear memory of him, what he looks like," Robin said. "I have not seen him for 13 years and now I am grownup. I'd like to see him so I can get to know him, who he really is."

Scout Australia's international commissioner, Brendan Watson, in another SBS Radio interview in Sydney, said Australian authorities would help Robin look for his father.

"Scout Australia would certainly be able to assist with accommodations and home hospitality after this event and we would also be more than happy to find him a family that will look after him for the time that he is here," Watson said.

"Any other assistance that he may need, we can refer him to the proper authorities," he added.

Back at his tent, Robin showed us a photo of his father who was seated in a lounge with Emmalyn, who was then 4 years old.

"That's the only picture I have," he said.

His trip to the jamboree, according to Robin, was "through the hand of God," after he and nine others were selected over thousands of boy scouts from all over the country.

Since he arrived at the jamboree, Robin has had a taste of the food Down Under—bangers (sausages) and mashed potatoes, apple pie and chips.

At lunch today with 20 other scouts from all over the world, Robin sat quietly at the table, closed his eyes and said a prayer.

Josh Cor, 12, of Kensington, New South Wales, said he learned a lot about the Philippines from Robin who told him about "a big animal they use to plow the land."

On Jan. 14 at 11:15 a.m., as it says on his plane ticket, Robin is scheduled to return home. Whether his wish to see his father is fulfilled before then is still to be seen.

Enrile says no to power deregulation

PRIVATIZATION, yes; deregulation, no.

This is the stand of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, who said that while the deregulation of the power industry was ill advised, it is in the national interest that the power generating plants of the National Power Corp. are privatized.

He warned that an ill-conceived and half-baked deregulation of the power sector could result in devastating and irreparable damage to the economy.

Enrile was making an assessment of the impact that the proposed Omnibus Power Act would have on the national economy and electric consumers. He is a member of the bicameral conference committee that is seeking to reconcile the Senate and House versions of the Omnibus Power Act.

He said deregulating the power sector at this time is ill advised as this would unduly subject our precarious economy to the accompanying convulsions of converting from a regulated system to a deregulated open market.

Enrile said the idea of creating competition and consumer choice through deregulation is only theoretically true.

He said we must have the right rules and safeguards to ensure that true competition really happens. The rules contained in the current Omnibus Power Act are not good enough to protect consumers from the evils of monopoly, market manipulation and abuses in contracting, Enrile said.

On the other hand, Enrile said he fully supports the privatization of the Napocor's power generating plants or gencos.

He said it is to the country's best interest to solve the financial problems of the ailing state-owned power firm and to encourage the entry of the private sector in building new power plants to avoid crippling power shortages starting in 2004.

Gov't to revive talks with NDF

PRESIDENT Estrada yesterday revealed plans to resume serious negotiations with the National Democratic Front, saying he had already directed former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Apeng" Yap to go to Netherlands to talk to NDF leader Jose Ma. Sison.

In an ambush interview, the President said Yap, who would most likely head the government panel of negotiators with the NDF, might soon fly to Utrecht to try to convince Sison to resume peace talks with the government.

He said Yap would also try to negotiate the release of two uniformed personnel kidnapped by the New People's Army in 1999, Army Major Noel Buan and police Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin.

The President said the need for unity in this time of crisis prompted him to change his mind, and decide to resume peace negotiations with the NDF, which had been calling for his ouster.

"We have been extending our hand of reconciliation to everybody. *Ang aking layunin ay magkaisa na ang mga Pilipino at magkatulung-tulong lalo na ngayon na panahon ng krisis,*" he said.

"*Kailangan na kailangan na magkaisa ang mga Pilipino,*" he said.

Mr. Estrada said that Major Buan and Chief Insp. Martin should already be freed to go back to their families.

For his part, he said he would be working to process the release of the political prisoners.

TENSION IN NEGROS

Zamora order heightens land row

By Cynthia D. Balana

ZAMORA

A "MIDNIGHT" order issued by former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora involving a huge piece of land belonging to the family of the late Roberto Benedicto, a known Marcos crony, has increased agrarian tensions in Negros Oriental.

This was disclosed yesterday by the nongovernment organization Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Empowerment Foundation (PEACE) which monitors cases of compliance with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

According to PEACE, Zamora issued a status quo order last Dec. 22 on a petition filed by the Benedicto family, which is pending before the Office of the President.

The petition was appealing against a government decision placing the property under CARP coverage.

The Benedictos took the Zamora order to mean that the landholdings should revert back to them until a final decision on the pending petition was issued by the Office of the President.

Farmers belonging to Nagasi Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (NARB-MPC) said the two-page order recalled the infamous Mapalad case in Bukidnon during the incumbency of then Executive Secretary Ruben Torres.

They said that in the latter case, both Torres and Zamora had signed a decision favoring wealthy and influential landowners on the eve of their departure from office.

They noted that both wanted to run for an elective post when they issued the decisions.

PEACE said that the Zamora order virtually pushed the conflict between the NARB-MPC farmers and Benedictos to the point of bloody confrontation.

It said that recently, individuals representing the Benedictos, with the aid of security guards and unidentified men, forcibly cut and harvested sugarcane planted by the NARB-MPC members.

The property under the name MALIBU Agro Corp., located in La Carlota City, was placed under CARP coverage in August 1996.

Certificates of Land Ownership Awards were distributed to 182 farmer-beneficiaries in April and October 1999, after a long and tedious struggle.

NARB-MPC members harvested their first cropping for the year 2000-2001 last September in the presence of Agrarian Secretary Horacio Morales and representatives from civil society groups, Church and media.

Representatives of the aggrieved farmers are now in Manila to stage a series of protest actions to denounce the order to force Morales to act on the matter.

They are asking Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara to reverse Zamora's order and also to investigate all possible "midnight" orders issued by Zamora on the eve of his departure from Malacañang.

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Burma junta, Suu Kyi start talks

UNITED NATIONS—Burma's military junta and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi—bitter rivals since the junta took power 13 years ago and violently crushed a democratic uprising—have launched face-to-face talks, the United Nations announced Tuesday.

It was the first confirmation that Suu Kyi and the Southeast Asian nation's military rulers have ever spoken.

The announcement came just hours after UN envoy Razali Ismail concluded a five-day mission to Burma, where he met with the military government and with Suu Kyi, a pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

"During his mission, Mr. Razali was able to confirm that the two sides had started a direct dialogue since October," UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard said in a statement. He said the sides are "satisfied with the results achieved so far in the area of confidence building" and are expected to start more substantive discussions on national reconciliation soon.

Stephane Dujarric, another UN spokesperson, confirmed that Suu Kyi herself had taken part in more than one round of talks since October with Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, a senior leader in the ruling junta.

The talks represent a major advance in relations between the military government and Suu Kyi, who has faced years of harassment for her attempts to bring democracy to Burma.

Burma, also known as Myanmar, has been ruled by the military continuously since 1962. The current generals took power in 1988, gunning down thousands of pro-democracy protesters nationwide. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy was formed two weeks later.

In 1990, the military leaders organized general elections, and the NLD easily won, taking 82 percent of the seats. But the military refused to acknowledge the results and yield power. Afterward, NLD members were subjected to a nearly constant campaign of harassment and arrests.

Suu Kyi spent the years from 1989 to 1995 under house arrest on trumped-up national security charges. Since her release, her movements and activities in Burma have been severely restricted.

In a cruel test of her commitment, the government in early 1999 refused to grant her husband, British academic Michael Aris, a visa to visit her, even though he was dying of cancer. The government suggested instead that she go to her spouse's side in Britain—an offer Suu Kyi regarded as a one-way ticket to exile. She stayed, and her husband died in March of that year.

Suu Kyi has been held under virtual house arrest since last fall, when she tried to leave Burma's capital, Rangoon, on party business.

Until now, Burma's military government has consistently refused to negotiate with the opposition if Suu Kyi took part. With word of a breakthrough Tuesday, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged both sides to "seize the momentum and work to achieve national reconciliation in Burma at an early date," Eckhard said.

Earlier Tuesday, Razali said in Malaysia that his mission had been "very satisfactory" and that he intended to return soon. *AP*

Russia can't pay all debts in Soviet era

MOSCOW—Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said Tuesday that Russia cannot make full payment on its Soviet-era debt without endangering the welfare of its citizens and told the finance minister to begin negotiations with creditor nations.

Kasyanov made the statement just hours after Russia announced it had made a $10-million payment to the creditor nations, known collectively as the Paris Club, even though it had said last week that it planned to skip first-quarter payments in 2001.

The $10-million payment is just a small fraction of the total $1.5 billion that Russia was to pay the Paris Club in the first three months of the year. In total, Russia owes $48 billion in Soviet-era debt.

The announcement that Russia would miss some first-quarter payments raised questions about whether the country's economic recovery is really as strong as the Kremlin has claimed and could potentially darken President Vladimir Putin's attempts to encourage foreign investment and cultivate better relations with the West.

On Sunday, at the end of a two-day visit by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, Russia's largest foreign creditor, Putin declared that Russia would meet all its Soviet-era debts, but suggested that Russia would seek new terms.

It was not immediately clear what arrangements Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin would be likely to seek in the talks with the Paris Club ordered by Kasyanov.

Recent statements by Russian officials have indicated the Kremlin is placing substantial hope on working out an arrangement for a standby loan from the International Monetary Fund. Approval of such a measure would be seen as endorsement of Russia's economic policies and could give officials leverage in working out new debt payment terms. *AP*

DU munitions don't cause cancer—Cohen

WASHINGTON—Remnants of tanks and armored vehicles that were struck by US depleted-uranium (DU) rounds in the Balkans, and are now at the center of a cancer scare, should have been cleared from the battlefield, US Defense Secretary William Cohen conceded Tuesday.

But Cohen, responding to concerns raised by European governments—particularly Italy—over a rash of leukemia cases among former Balkans peacekeepers, said Nato allies were given adequate warning and instructions on how to deal with the hazards posed by depleted uranium.

Moreover, he insisted that no scientific link has been found between the reported illnesses and depleted uranium, a dense, mildly radioactive metal that the US military uses both in tank-busting munitions and as armor.

"I suppose if there were any deficiencies to be found it would be in the failure to pick up fragments of destroyed vehicles and tanks in which the depleted uranium was used," he said at a news conference.

"But beyond that I think adequate warning was given and there was very low risk of coming into contact with this provided sufficient protection is taken," he said. *AFP*

REUTERS

HINDU devotees pray as they dip into India's holy river Ganges during the second day of the Kumbh Mela festival in the northern city Allahabad, Jan. 10.

Throngs of Hindus dip into icy Ganges River

ALLAHABAD, India—Standing waist-deep in the icy Ganges River water, hundreds of thousands of Hindu devotees floated small clay oil lamps early Wednesday as a lunar eclipse made their once in 12 years Kumbh festival even more auspicious.

The lamps glowed, but a cloudy sky disappointed the devotees who couldn't watch the eclipse. But they went ahead with the holy dip past midnight for the first lunar eclipse of the millennium.

The eclipse was visible thousands of kilometers away in southern India.

Nearly 4.2 million people bathed in the Ganges River on Tuesday, the first day of the 43-day Kumbh Mela festival Hindu devotees believe that the holy dip washes away their sins and breaks the cycle of death and rebirth.

A multitude of men, women and children continued to arrive in Allahabad by trains, buses, trucks, tractor-driven carriages and even bullock carts for the next most auspicious bathing day on Jan. 14. Up to 65 million may come by the time the event ends on Feb. 21.

Astrologers calculate the holiest dates for bathing based on the position of the stars and planets. Other auspicious dates are Jan. 14, 24 and 29, and Feb. 8 and 21

While four cities alternate holding Kumbh Mela, the festival in Allahabad, 576 km east of New Delhi, is considered the most auspicious because it lies near the confluence of three rivers, the Ganges, the Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati.

Kumbh Mela derives its name from a Hindu myth that tells how the gods and demons fought over a "kumbh," or pot, of nectar that would give them immortality. Legend has it that one of the gods ran off with the pot, spilling four drops of nectar near four blessed cities.

Nearly 20,000 naked or scantily clad holy men from warrior sects, with long hair and beards, were greeted by hundreds of thousands of devotees and got precedence for bathing at the confluence of the three rivers

The holy men, with their foreheads daubed with ash or sandalwood paste, carried spears and poles.

"I was very close to God. I was totally away from the world, life and everything," said Pratap Garh, a teacher, wearing only a loin cloth as he stepped out of the river on Tuesday. *AP*

Arafat insists on full treaty

JERUSALEM—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met with Israeli Cabinet Minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak in Gaza early Wednesday in efforts to renew security cooperation between the sides.

The meeting also dealt with negotiations to work out a final peace agreement before US President Bill Clinton leaves office on Jan. 20, Israeli negotiator Gilead Sher said.

The chief of the Israeli Shin Bet security service, Avi Dichter, participated in the meeting overnight, Israeli radio reported. Palestinian officials confirmed the meeting on condition of anonymity and said a similar one would be held Wednesday.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Yasser Abed Rabbo rejected the idea of a partial agreement or statement of principles with Israel before Clinton leaves office, saying Palestinians want a full peace treaty or nothing.

"Peace cannot be declared, it must be achieved," Abed Rabbo wrote Tuesday in a two-page statement outlining the Palestinian negotiating position.

He warned against accords that require more negotiations and called for a treaty that ties up all loose ends, except for a few technical matters.

Sher insisted a presidential declaration outlining each side's position still would be a valuable "platform for any further negotiations."

Clinton still is pushing for some formal progress toward a final peace deal before he leaves office Jan. 20. With no negotiations under way, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak had aired the possibility of a Clinton presidential statement to sum up the talks so far.

Clinton called Arafat from Chicago on Tuesday night and spoke for about 30 minutes, the White House said. No details were available.

US mediator Dennis Ross is expected Thursday for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, in a last try to see if anything can be accomplished in the time remaining. *AP*

Huge protests expected on Bush inauguration

WASHINGTON—When President-elect George W. Bush called himself a "uniter," this is probably not what he had in mind: The largest number of inaugural demonstrators since the Vietnam War protests at Richard Nixon's 1973 swearing-in plan to converge on the nation's capital on Jan. 20.

Their causes and methods are diverse, but many have one thing in common: a mistrust of Bush, who will take office that day.

"The Bush administration came to office as a result of racist disenfranchisement of voters, and we believe his Cabinet nominees show that Bush intends to carry out major reversals of the progressive social achievements of the civil rights and women's movement," Brian Becker, a director with the New York-based International Action Center, said Tuesday.

He is organizing buses to bring people from around the country to the protests.

Some likely demonstrators are veterans of the violent 1999 protests in Seattle that shut down a global trade meeting amid clouds of tear gas. Others were among the 1,300 people arrested in Washington on April for three days of World Bank protests.

They are being joined by people galvanized by the contested election outcome and opposed to Bush and his policies.

Other activists with causes that vary from abortion to the death penalty had planned to demonstrate regardless of who won the election.

"There is a merging of anger from different levels so that people are using Jan. 20 as a platform to say that a new movement is here," said Becker, who was among those arrested in April.

Becker and his group's attorneys said Tuesday that after a two-month wait they had received permits to hold demonstrations at three locations in the vicinity of the parade route, but they haven't been told how many people will be allowed to gather.

Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer said the incoming administration respects the protests as an American right.

"Even with the protests, President-elect Bush has said his job is to be president of all the people, and that's what he intends to do," Fleischer said. "We've been very respectful of them, and of course we expect they'll be very respectful of the president-elect."

But some demonstrators have a less cordial message for Bush.

The Justice Action Movement, a coalition of organizations including those who protested here in April, plans to have small groups scattered throughout the crowd at the swearing-in ceremony outside the Capitol with signs and banners, including some that question the legitimacy of Bush's presidency with the words "Hail to the Thief." *AP*

Labor secretary-designate withdraws her nomination

WASHINGTON—US President-elect George W. Bush suffered the first setback in his Cabinet formation process Tuesday as Labor Secretary-designate Linda Chavez withdrew her nomination after admitting to harboring an illegal immigrant.

Citing what she called "the politics of personal destruction" in Washington, and slamming the press for blowing the story out of proportion, Chavez said she had become "a distraction."

Bush said in a statement that he was "disappointed that Linda Chavez will not become our nation's next secretary of labor."

Chavez, 53, admitted that she knowingly took Marta Mercado, a battered illegal immigrant from Guatemala, into her home in the early 1990s upon a friend's request.

She said many people had helped her through difficult times when she was growing up and when her parents were ill, "and I vowed to myself that no matter what happened to me in my life, I would be there for other people," she said. *AFP*

Dying 11-year-old AIDS activist praised worldwide

JOHANNESBURG—With a squeeze so faint that it's hardly detectable, South Africa's youngest AIDS activist let his big sister know that yes, he would like to sit in the garden tomorrow.

If he lives until tomorrow, that is.

Nkosi Johnson, 11, is dying of AIDS, the illness he has devoted much of his young life to battle. Until he fell seriously sick last weekend, he gave numerous speeches and interviews to raise awareness about the epidemic ravaging Africa.

But now, his tiny body lies immobile in his huge bed, which he shares with a stuffed tiger and a Mickey Mouse.

Nkosi—who gained fame in South Africa for his successful attempts to enter school despite the stigma against AIDS patients—gained international recognition in August when he delivered a speech as part of the opening ceremony at the 13th International AIDS Conference, held in Durban. He appealed to people to stop stigmatizing people with AIDS.

"You can't get AIDS by kissing, hugging or holding hands," he said in his speech. "We are normal human beings. We can walk, we can talk, we are all the same."

Now, there's nothing more doctors can do for him. The virus has damaged his brain, making him unable to speak or eat.

His foster sister, Nicci Johnson, 20, showed Nkosi an embroidered handkerchief.

"A man gave me this and said I must give it to you," she said, and read the handkerchief's message: "Jesus loves you very much and he is healing you."

"It will give you strength, big boy," she said.

That message is just one of many that have poured in for the boy. A poster on the wall in his home is filled with scribbles expressing love and admiration.

"In your fighting spirit begins the rays of hope for cure," one visitor wrote.

Nkosi Johnson was born with the virus that causes AIDS. His birth mother, also an AIDS sufferer, could not afford to bring up her son and Gail Johnson became his foster mother when he was 2.

Gail and Nkosi Johnson became well-known in South Africa when a public primary school was reluctant to admit the Nkosi—who was then 7—because of his illness. Johnson had disclosed his HIV status on the application forms.

After a battle with fellow parents and the school board, Johnson got Nkosi accepted, though he had to wait a semester while school staff underwent workshops on how to deal with children with AIDS.

"It was fear, lack of knowledge that caused this," she said. "Thanks to Nkosi, there is a policy around education of infected children."

That policy says schools must admit HIV-positive children.

Nkosi loved school, and his favorite subjects were English, Bible studies and history, Johnson said. But instead of attending class, he preferred to sit in the headmaster's office and eat pizza, Johnson said. Nkosi knows how to manipulate people, and the headmaster is very fond of him, she said.

"I went to school and said this must stop," Johnson said. "I said he must fail, and he accepted that. I said you must start being responsible, you've got to be a student as well. He agreed with me." *AP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

TOOTS SOBERANO

SELLING BELIEFS

From love potions to charms, this woman vendor on a Baguio City sidewalk offers not only cure for diseases but also opens the door to a world of fantasy for believers in magic.

Farmers slam Zamora for 'midnight' order

BY CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Beneficiaries of agrarian reform in a property of the late Ambassador Roberto Benedicto in La Carlota City yesterday denounced as grossly unfair and biased the alleged "midnight" order of former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora suspending the farmers' installation in the property.

Fr. Rodrigo Anoran, who is helping the farmers, said they challenged newly appointed Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara to reverse the Zamora order.

He also called for the creation of an independent body that will look into the alleged midnight order.

Zamora issued a directive on Dec. 22, suspending the execution of the June 6 order of Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales to install the farmer-beneficiaries in the Benedicto Estate.

The deferment of Morales' enforcement was sought pending the resolution of an appeal filed by the Malibu Agro Corp., that manages Hacienda Esperanza, a 564-hectare property of Benedicto in La Carlota, 45 kilometers southeast of Bacolod.

Zamora resigned as executive secretary last week to prepare for his bid to retake his House seat representing the lone district of San Juan, Metro Manila.

Hacienda Esperanza was placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in August 1996. Certificates of Landownership Awards (Cloas) were distributed to 182 farmer-beneficiaries in April and October 1999.

But Kitchie Benedicto Paulino, daughter of the late ambassador, refuses to recognize many of the farmer-beneficiaries belonging to the Nagasi Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (NARBMPC) who are associated with Anoran.

The Benedictos recognized the 119 members of the Workers Amalgated Union of the Philippines (WAUP) as the "rightful beneficiaries of Hacienda Esperanza."

They even sought reconsideration of the June 14 order of Morales, stating that there was no more legal impediment to the NARBMPC's taking possession of the landholdings.

Father Anoran said representatives of the NARBMPC are in Manila to stage a series of mass actions, to include an indefinite hunger strike for the Zamora order to be reversed.

He said the order escalated tension in Hacienda Esperanza that could lead to a bloody confrontation.

He said personnel of the Benedictos, accompanied by security guards and unidentified armed men, forcibly cut and harvested the cane planted by the farmer-beneficiaries.

Edgar Uytiepo, lawyer of the Benedictos, yesterday said Zamora's order was legal as there were no grounds to install the NARBMPC farmers in the property because the management was questioning their inclusion in the list of beneficiaries.

"We have evidence to support our claim that some beneficiaries named by (the Department of Agrarian Reform) are not legitimate workers of the farm and as such cannot be beneficiaries," he said.

The Benedictos want to give priority to the original workers of the farm and not those identified and installed by the La Carlota City agrarian reform officer, Uytiepo said.

With Zamora's order, he said, the NARBMPC farmers could not cultivate or harvest sugarcane in the property.

Glorigen Estama, a NARBMPC farmer, said they had planted sugarcane on 174.5 hectares but were only allowed to harvest sugarcane from 60 hectares of the land by Malibu Agro Corp. reportedly on orders of Paulino.

She said Ambassador Benedicto was still alive when they planted the sugarcane and he did not oppose it. Benedicto died in May last year.

"If Paulino says she only wants workers in the farm to have a share of the land as her father wanted, why is she stopping us from harvesting our cane?" Estama asked.

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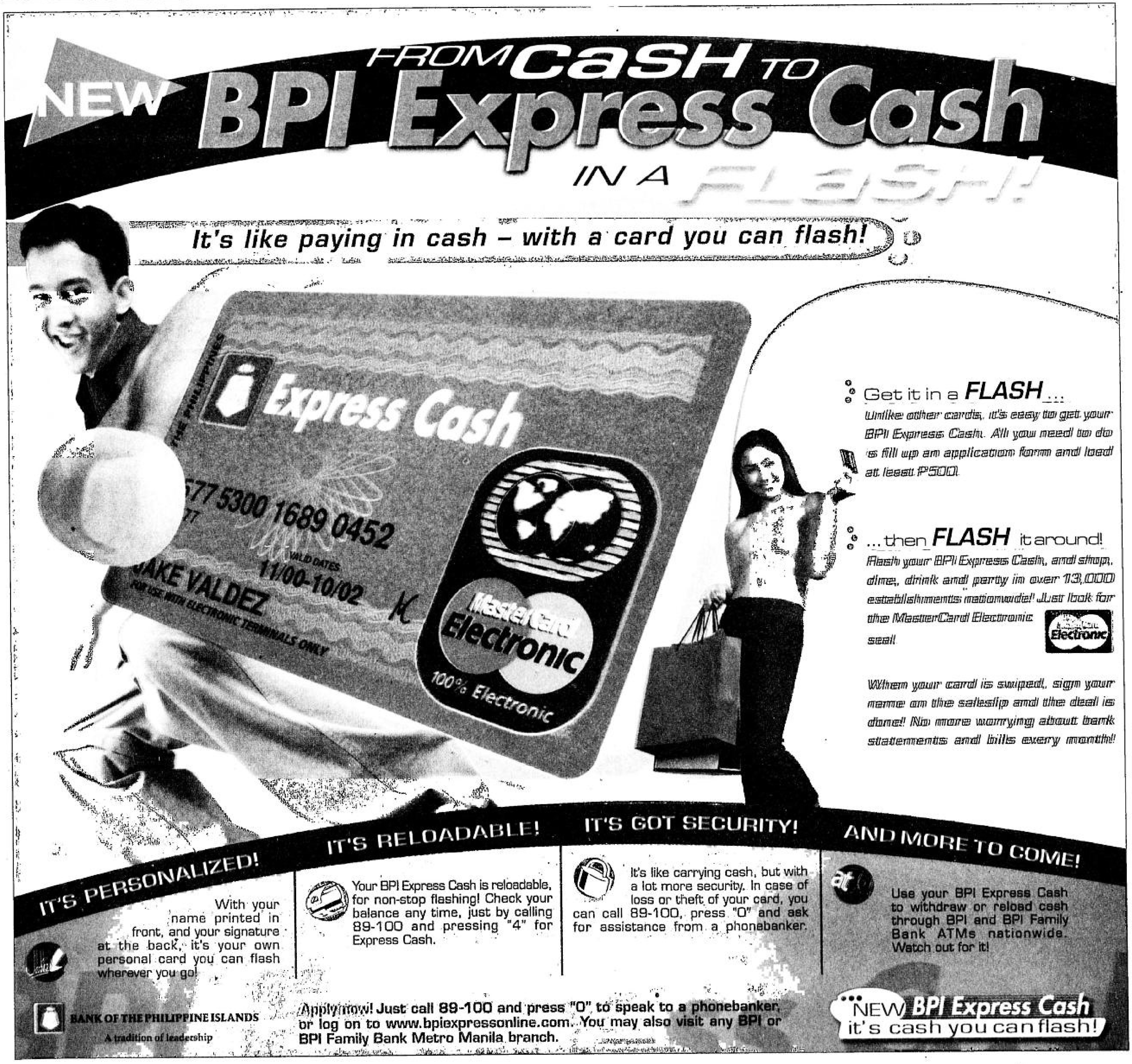

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Bongbong calls arms flow report exaggerated

LAOAG CITY—Calling it an "over-exaggeration" of the situation, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos lashed out at an INQUIRER report on the alleged buildup of firearms in Ilocos Norte.

A Commission on Elections official, in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, disclosed that checkpoints were needed because certain groups have started bringing in guns into the province.

Noli Pipo, provincial elections supervisor, revealed that guns, intended for the May elections, are already in the hands of groups in the province.

A visibly irked Marcos repeatedly referred to the report as an "exaggeration" which amounted to "lying." He said the report was completely raw and unconfirmed by intelligence services.

"You know, when we say, 'Ilocos Norte arms buildup seen,' it sounds like it's the Cold War all over again. We are buying airplanes and bombs," he said in a press briefing Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, in a press statement he issued to reporters on Tuesday, Pipo admitted that the information was very raw and were not confirmed by any law enforcement agencies. He said he gathered the information through his "personal routine."

He did not, however, deny any part of the INQUIRER report.

"The exact information I gathered is: There are some people from Ilocos Norte who buy firearms, preferably long, for their protection in the forthcoming elections," he said.

Pipo admitted that some residents were alarmed and saddened by the bad image cast on the province.

"How I wish I was wrong," he said.

He said he initially brushed aside the reports as nothing unusual. "But there were isolated acts of violence in the past . . . So I said should we be content with a generally peaceful election?" he asked.

Pipo also said the isolated killings in Pagudpud and Currimao towns in 1999 were also his concerns.

Former Pagudpud Mayor Rafael Benemerito was killed in 1999 reportedly over a land dispute. The ambush of Currimao Vice Mayor Wilbur Go, also that year, remains unsolved.

Marcos said the "exaggerated" report is mean-spirited and got in the way of the province's image. He claimed that tourists and investors have already pulled out of the province because of the INQUIRER report.

"So thank you very much to the Philippine Daily Inquirer, as usual," Marcos said sarcastically.

He, however, assured that the reports would be pursued and investigated. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DISBANDMENT ORDERED

Semirara militia days numbered

By Joy de Leon
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Major Gen. Julius Javier, chief of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, has ordered the dismantling of the paramilitary group on Semirara Island on Jan. 2.

He has also pulled out from the island the two junior Army officers who were supervising the operations of the Special Cafgu Active Auxiliary (SCAA) there.

But Javier said the dismantling of the paramilitary group had nothing to do with the reported harassment allegedly being committed on the island.

"I simply implemented an order coming from the Department of National Defense," he told the breakfast forum Budyong Kapihan aired over radio station dyBQ.

He said Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado ordered the phaseout of all SCAAs in six months starting Dec. 1 because they function as private armies.

"If the reports of harassment were true, I will never allow my people to harass the citizens of Semirara and I assure everybody that the Army will be neutral on this issue," he said.

Javier also urged Semirara residents to report to the Army if there were armed men introducing themselves as members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu).

"If there are really Cafgus (on) Semirara, we assure the people that they are disciplined and trained to follow orders from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and not from any private company," he said.

Javier said he sent Lt. Col. Lysander Suerte, chief of the 12th Infantry Battalion, to Semirara to make sure that the SCAA there was disbanded.

"If something untoward happens, I will hold Colonel Suerte responsible for the actions of the Cafgus if they are still operating on the island," he said.

The Semirara SCAA is under the supervision of the 12th IB's Charlie Company based in Pandan, Antique.

Former Defense Assistant Secretary Ruben Carranza earlier said the SCAA on Semirara was one of 34 SCAAs in the country that Mercado ordered deactivated effective Dec. 1.

Mercado had ordered all SCAAs disbanded in August as the nature with which these units were formed made them function as "private armies" of the companies they were securing.

But Gen. Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces chief of staff, had asked Mercado to reconsider his order. Mercado turned down Reyes' request in an order Nov. 10. Mercado, in the same order, directed Reyes to phase out all SCAAs in six months starting Dec. 1.

The SCAA was organized on Semirara on Nov. 18 amid widespread opposition among Antiqueños to the plan to dump Metro Manila's garbage in a landfill to be established on Semirara.

Semirara, one of the nine islands that comprise the municipality of Caluya, Antique, is home to the biggest coal mine in Asia operated by the Semirara Coal Corp. (SCC).

The DMCI Holdings Inc., the investment arm of the Consunji family that owns the SCC, is one of the firms in the consortium contracted by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to undertake the project.

Javier said the Semirara SCAA was formed in November because the SCC's request to form a militia unit on the island was approved only in October.

Antique officials questioned the forming of the paramilitary unit since the company already has 120 guards securing its facilities.

They also noted that most of the 88 members of the island's SCAA were SCC employees, including the mining firm's chief security officer.

PHOTO FROM SAN JUAN MAYOR'S OFFICE

SHAVED WARRIOR

A mustache-less San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, son of the President, continues his provincial sorties, this time donning a traditional Apayao costume in rites marking his adoption as a son of the province.

DENR stops Korean firm from dumping waste in Pampanga

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The Environment Management Bureau (EMB, an agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, stopped on Monday a Korean garbage disposal company from dumping garbage from Metro Manila in a five-hectare land in Minalin town.

Elisa Dimaliwat, solid waste management coordinator of the regional EMB, said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has not issued an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) to any garbage disposal company to dump garbage in Minalin.

"There was not even an identified site for a landfill in Minalin," she said.

Last Friday, 200 residents of Barangay Sta. Catalina in Minalin stopped 26 dump trucks loaded with garbage from Caloocan City, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela City (Camanava).

The drivers of the trucks admitted that they were supposed to dump garbage in a five-hectare lot owned by a brother-in-law of Minalin Mayor Santiago Yabut.

Engineer Virgilio Juliana, who reportedly introduced himself as a contractor of a garbage disposal firm owned by Korean Rus Co Choi, was charged with dumping the garbage in Minalin.

Juliana earlier said he could not recall the name of the garbage disposal firm owned by Choi. He, however, said the garbage would be mixed with lahar to produce fertilizer.

Minalin Councilor Willy Manalili said the dumping of garbage from Camanava in Barangay Sta. Catalina started on Jan. 2.

He said residents had already stopped 40 dump trucks from throwing garbage in the village. Some of the trucks are impounded at the Sta. Catalina barangay hall compound.

Minalin residents and officials suspect that one of the firms that won the contract to dispose of garbage from Metro Manila in a coal mine on Semirara Island in Antique has diverted the trash in Barangay Sta. Catalina because of mounting opposition in the Visayas.

Equipment of the R-II Builders Inc. were seen dumping mounds of lahar over the trash that was already discarded in the village on Friday night, Manalili said.

Juliana said they were temporarily using R-II Builders equipment because their own equipment had suffered engine troubles.

Chito Nombres, R-II Builders operations manager, on Monday denied the allegations, saying it was impossible for his company to be involved in the plan to dump Metro Manila garbage in Minalin.

"We are not in the business of hauling or collecting waste," Nombres told the INQUIRER by phone.

In the case of the Semirara disposal project, Nombres said his company was only operating the transfer station in Vitas in Tondo, Manila.

R-II Builders also won a Japanese-funded contract to upgrade the San Francisco tail dike in Minalin, which is near the planned dump.

Manalili said the municipal council has summoned Juliana to appear in an investigation and reveal who actually was the company behind the dumping of wastes that were collected from Camanava.

Last Saturday, Juliana declined to reveal to Vice Mayor Nilo Pingul the name of the company he was working for in a so-called fertilizer production project that he and Lito Miranda, Mayor Yabut's brother-in-law, were starting in Minalin.

Miranda also declined to name the company he was negotiating with.

Pingul expressed skepticism on the fertilizer project as he noted that the garbage loaded in the 26 trucks contained mostly non-biodegradable materials like plastic.

The fertilizer project had no permit from the municipal council, he said.

Yabut on Monday confirmed that Juliana called him up to seek support for the fertilizer project. The name of R-II Builders did not surface in the discussion, Yabut said. *Jun Malig and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

2 attacks put Isabela cops on alert

MALLIG, Isabela—Police tightened security in this town after separate attacks on Mayor Demetria Isidro and former Isabela Gov. Leocadio Ignacio in a span of two weeks.

The move came after residents expressed fear that this town would be included as an election hot spot following the incidents.

Police said several motorcycle-riding men threw a hand grenade at Isidro's house in Barangay Poblacion here on Jan. 6.

The explosion destroyed the house's receiving area and its roof and windows. Isidro, however, was not hurt as she was in her bedroom when the grenade exploded.

"It was just timely that I had already entered my room (when the explosion happened)," she said.

Isidro, a three-term mayor, called the attack as politically motivated. She did not identify the suspects although she believed the attack could have been motivated by her decision to field her son Edward in the mayoral race.

Insp. Agustin Tongcol, Mallig police chief, said there were no witnesses to the incident.

Last month, several armed men ambushed Ignacio while the former governor was on his way home after hearing Mass in the town.

Ignacio's vehicle was riddled with bullets but the former governor suffered only bruises. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Erap trial won't destabilize RP, says ex-head of UN force

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City--The trial of President Estrada is not fueling political violence similar to the strife in neighboring Indonesia, contrary to a worst-case scenario floated by Malacañang last year, a former United Nations peacekeeping official said here.

Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, AFP deputy chief of staff and former chief of the UN peacekeeping mission to East Timor, said the Philippine military "remained in control of the situation," preventing the occurrence here of any of the episodes that led to the Indonesian violence.

De los Santos, who was also a former PMA superintendent, attended the assumption of new PMA superintendent, Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr., on Jan. 6, following the retirement of Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales.

Notwithstanding the Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila that killed at least 18 people and injured 100 others, De los Santos said national security was not compromised and continued to cushion the public from political chaos.

De los Santos said he originally led the mission sent out to help rebuild East Timor, after that Indonesian island's secession by a populist vote sparked massive strife among other provinces in the region.

In comparison, De los Santos said the Philippine situation was more sublime because the government's renewed military campaign in Mindanao against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) remained an isolated and internal conflict that did not lead to "similar secessionist movements in other parts of the archipelago."

Cashiered Col. Proceso Maligalig, Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) spokesperson who also attended the PMA ceremonies, said the right-wing organization had called off its active participation in street rallies seeking President Estrada's resignation to await the outcome of the Senate impeachment trial. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

New Mayon eruption feared

LEGAZPI CITY--Government volcanologists yesterday warned of a "possible resurgent eruption" of Mount Mayon even as Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado allayed fears of people living near the volcano.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) hoisted Alert Level 2 as of 9 p.m., Tuesday. This meant an increased and sustained volcanic unrest.

"Let's enjoy the activity of Mayon, I think this is more predictable than the impeachment proceedings. But we do not expect Mayon to rival the Senate hearing," Mercado, concurrently chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said during a visit here yesterday.

With the secretary was Phivolcs Director Raymundo Punongbayan.

Mercado said Mayon "is a part and parcel of our lives and topography and we should always be ready for any eventuality. So let us look at the positive side of it, but let us also be ready to do our job of being ready always."

On Tuesday, Punongbayan informed Mercado about the recent behavior of Mayon based on photographs taken Monday that showed what appeared to be a lava dome.

The Phivolcs official said the dome was similar to the lava accumulations that appeared before Mayon erupted in February last year.

Lava domes re-form when lava that was too thick to flow accumulates inside the crater, he said.

"Such lava piles may be considered a precursor to pyroclastic flow-producing or lava flow-producing eruptions as fresh magma from beneath the summit pushes overlaying volcanic material upward," Punongbayan said.

He asked Mercado for a helicopter that would allow his men to document the summit area and augment ground-based observations. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Palawan poll feud eclipses Erap trial

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Residents of Puerto Princesa City and the province of Palawan temporarily forgot the impeachment trial of President Estrada on Monday and Tuesday as their attention was focused on a feud closer to home—the fight for the province's governorship.

The Commission on Elections, sitting en banc, upheld on Jan. 2 a resolution annulling the proclamation of the still-missing Gov. Salvador Socrates and proclaiming Douglas Hagedorn the real winner of the 1998 gubernatorial elections.

Hagedorn earlier filed a disqualification case against Socrates.

The Comelec provincial board of canvassers on Monday announced its decision declaring Socrates disqualified for acts of terrorism and massive vote-buying.

The decision also ordered Gov. Joel Reyes to vacate his post to give way to Hagedorn.

The provincial government issued a press statement that they "believe that the promulgation of the case by the Comelec en banc was done under wraps because the counsel of . . . Socrates was not informed (of) the said promulgation."

Socrates' lawyers repeatedly argued that based on the Section 23 of the Omnibus Election Code, they must be "duly notified five days before the promulgation" but their appeal was by the board of canvassers through acting chair lawyer Buen Narrazid.

A 15-minute recess called by the board interrupted the convening and upon resumption at around 10:30 a.m., Narrazid read the decision that is reminiscent of former Speaker Manuel Villar's reading of the transmittal of the articles of impeachment against President Estrada.

Narrazid did not give attention to further motions being filed by the lawyers of Socrates.

Supporters of Hagedorn responded with applause and shouts of merriment as Narrazid read the declaration.

But while Hagedorn and his supporters were celebrating the decision, the provincial capitol was closed and work was put on hold as hundreds of supporters of Socrates and Reyes blocked the main entrance of the building.

Supporters had flocked around the building since Monday, expecting a hostile takeover.

Reyes said he would step down from office only upon orders by the Supreme Court. He said his lawyers had filed a petition for a temporary restraining order against the Comelec order.

Late in the afternoon, however, tension among provincial employees was relieved when Socrates' lawyers announced that the Supreme Court ordered that status quo be preserved.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide on Monday ordered the Comelec to stop enforcing its decision. It asked the Comelec and Hagedorn to file a consolidated comment in 10 days after the ruling. *Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'DASTARDLY CRIME'

NPA condemns rival group over killing

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—The New People's Army has condemned the death penalty meted out by its rival communist group Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan on Eric "Ricky" Canlas last week in Barangay San Antonio, Mexico town.

In a press release faxed to the Clark Media Center here on Tuesday, the NPA's Josepino Corpuz Command called as a "dastardly crime" the killing of Canlas by the RHB on Jan. 5.

Jose Agtalon, command spokesperson, said Canlas was a 24-year-old civilian who, at the time of his death, was a volunteer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Mexico town and an officer of the Pampanga Radio Communication (PRC).

In an earlier press statement issued by the RHB Pampanga Command on Jan. 7, the group said Canlas, also known as Ka Mercy, was sentenced to death because he was the lead intelligence officer of the NPA unit that conducted surveillance operations on slain RHB leader Bartolome "Ka JoeBay" Quizon.

Quizon was killed by NPA guerrillas on Dec. 2 last year in his house in Barangay San Lorenzo, Mexico.

Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Pampanga police director, confirmed Canlas' murder. But he said their records neither identified Canlas as an NPA member nor identified the suspects in the murder.

Police recovered three shells of .45 cal. pistol bullets from the crime scene in Barangay San Antonio.

Ka Den, RHB Pampanga spokesperson, also disclosed that his group was responsible for the death of Jesse Bagtas and Noel de la Cruz on Dec. 18. The two were accused by the RHB of actively participating in the surveillance operations against Quizon.

Agtalon, on the other hand, said Bagtas and De la Cruz were not NPA members but ordinary fish vendors.

The provincial police earlier confirmed the reported killings but their records did not show that Bagtas and De la Cruz were NPA sympathizers as claimed by the RHB.

The human rights group Karapatan condemned the killings of Bagtas and De la Cruz, saying they were not rebels but farmers who were members of the Aguman da reng Maglalautang Capampangan. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Obstruction of justice

(From page A1)

because I refused to help him intervene in a more serious case than BW Resources," Cayetano said in an outburst at the start of impeachment proceedings Wednesday.

"I speak of the Vizconde murder trial case," Cayetano said.

Press Undersecretary Mike Toledo dismissed Cayetano's claims, saying they were mere "fabrication."

"Almost every day we are treated to something new, something novel against the President and members of his family," he said.

But Cayetano challenged Mr. Estrada to take the witness stand so that he could also grill him on his alleged intervention in the country's worst insider stock trading case as well.

Hubert Webb and six other youths were convicted last year of the grisly 1991 murders of the wife and two daughters of Lauro Vizconde. They were all sentenced to life imprisonment.

Approached

Cayetano said the President had approached him during the birthday party of then Trade Secretary Jose Pardo in 1998 and sought his help in bringing about the acquittal of the young Webb and his co-accused.

"Rene, could you help the Webbs. The judge seems biased and she is likely to convict," Cayetano said the President whispered to him.

Cayetano said Judge Amelita Tolentino and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño later told him that Mr. Estrada separately summoned them in 1999 before the verdict on the Vizconde murder case was handed down.

Mr. Estrada told Tolentino, "Why don't you acquit them? Anyway, the case is weak," Cayetano said, adding that the judge left the Palace visibly shaken and in tears.

Zuño later said he was called and asked to convince Tolentino to acquit the accused.

Cayetano said he also learned that the President made the same overture to then Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas.

"Obviously the President was involved in unlawful and malicious interference in the administration of justice," Cayetano said.

Cuevas said Mr. Estrada was unhappy after state prosecutors won the conviction.

"Instead of being congratulated and commended because the prosecution did a wonderful job over and above all obstacles . . . and the way I assessed the situation then he was not happy about it. He seemed to be mad at me. I was rather surprised," Cuevas said. He was later sacked.

Press Undersecretary Toledo said Cayetano's allegations "don't surprise us anymore."

During the impeachment proceedings, defense lawyer Raul Daza rejected Cayetano's demand for Mr. Estrada to take the stand, saying the defense panel would not be dictated to by anyone.

BW shares

"Today, Mr. Dante Tan . . . the central figure in Article 3 of the impeachment court, together with President Estrada, alias Jose Velarde, told dzMM upon prompting by Ted Failon, a known supporter of President Erap, that I sold 4 million shares of BW and made a whopping P70 million," Cayetano said.

"Mr. President, Mr. Chief Justice, these are all lies," he said.

Cayetano said he bought from Tan only 3 million shares and made "only much less."

Cayetano described as a "blatant and malicious lie" that he paid for the shares only much later when the Senate was already investigating the BW scandal.

"If I was part of and knew insider trading activities of Mr. Tan, I would be P300 million richer now," he said.

Cayetano said there was nothing irregular about his trading in BW shares, adding he was an active player in the stock market.

He said he had investments in PLDT, Meralco, ABS-CBN, San Miguel Corp., Benpres, Piltel, C&P Homes, Seafront, Vulcan, Swift, Alaska Milk, Fil Estate Investment Corp., Ayala Land, Ayala Corp., among others.

Cayetano said the "malicious minds of the Erap boys" are at work against him. He said he learned that the Presidential Management Staff, "through somebody close to the President," was preparing a case of plunder against him for the BW trading.

Reactions

Daza suggested that Cayetano bring his case to the Senate proper and not to the impeachment court.

Sen. Vicente Sotto III asked that Cayetano's issue be referred to the Senate to enable other interested senators to ask questions.

But Cayetano stood pat that the matter be discussed in the impeachment court.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that Cayetano's speech should be noted and should form part of the records of the trial.

Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad objected to Cayetano's speaking from the podium of the prosecution panel in making his personal privilege speech. But Cayetano said he needed a podium to put some papers on.

Return money

Sen. John Osmeña challenged Cayetano to return the P70 million he allegedly earned from trading BW shares.

Osmeña, who got embroiled in the "Juetenggate" controversy when he and Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta received P1 million each from President Estrada, said Cayetano might even face an investigation by the Senate ethics committee.

At the very least, Osmeña said Cayetano should explain his side to the impeachment court.

"In the same way that Sen. Tessie Aquino and I returned the money and explained the circumstances of the so-called *balato* and have come forward with a clean slate on the matter, so perhaps Senator Cayetano should return the P70 million," Osmeña said.

"It really all depends on whether Mr. Cayetano earned those millions legitimately but if we can be shown that somehow he was engaged in insider trading then he will have a lot to explain but in this connection I certainly want to hear first Mr. Cayetano's side," Pimentel said.

Mr. Estrada has been accused of ordering government investigators to clear Tan in the stock manipulation case, one of the charges that the President is facing. ***With reports from AP and AFP***

Atong lawyer tied to Fortuns' fortune

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

A MOTION to cite the Fortun brothers for contempt also includes the lawyer of Atong Ang, Alredo Villamor.

Senator-Judges Franklin Drilon, Rodolfo Biazon and Renato Cayetano formally filed the motion yesterday in relation to the "misrepresentation" of Delia Rajas last Monday.

Villamor allegedly participated in the "conspiracy" of defense counsels Sigfried and Raymond Fortun to convey the impression to the court that the Rajas who was in the audience last Monday was the same Rajas Landbank cashier Maria Cardidad Rodenas met in the bank two years ago.

Drilon asked on behalf of the two other senators to require the three lawyers to show cause within 48 hours why they should not be cited for contempt and "after due hearing that these respondents be meted out the appropriate penalty."

The penalty includes fines, sanctions or imprisonment depending on the extent of their misbehavior.

Sigfried Fortun made a belated admission, but only after persistent questionings from senator-judges, that the Rajas in the gallery was not the same woman Rodenas knew.

'Garcia' account 'destroyed'

(From page A1)

although they said that the signature cards did not contain personal information other than the name.

But a source in the banking industry revealed that the money kept in the bank was much larger than what was first disclosed.

"The amount is not P99 million but about or even more than P600 million," said the source, who asked not to be named. "But as soon as the name Kevin Garcia was brought up by the prosecution, the records were wiped out. *Nagawan na nila ng paraan* (They found a way)."

The source said the money was withdrawn and all records pertaining to the Garcia account were destroyed in mid-December.

The Allied Bank employees also said that records of the account "disappeared" shortly after a big withdrawal was made.

The source said "there are more accounts of the President, again using an alias, in other banks."

Allied Bank, a bank controlled by the President's good friend Lucio Tan, denied the existence of the account.

"I absolutely don't know anything about these rumors because I do not waste executive time on rumors and speculative talks," said Allied Bank president Peter Favila. "I only know as much as what I read in the papers."

House prosecutors declined to comment on the account, saying they were bound by an agreement with the President's defense panel that no one would publicly reveal contents of bank documents before these are admitted by the impeachment court.

But two members of the prosecution team, who spoke on condition of anonymity, revealed that they had the same information about the existence of the account.

"The Kevin Garcia account in Allied Bank exists and we have solid leads that would link it to President Estrada or President Jose Velarde (the name allegedly used by Mr. Estrada in opening another account in Equitable PCI Bank)," one of the prosecutors said.

He refused to elaborate.

Clarissa Ocampo, a senior vice president of Equitable PCI Bank, had testified before the Senate impeachment trial that the President was Jose Velarde, who opened a P500-milion trust account with the bank.

A prosecutor earlier said that Garcia regularly transferred millions of pesos to the Velarde account.

The name Kevin Garcia was one of those mentioned on Tuesday at the impeachment trial when the prosecution made a "proffer of evidence" concerning some accounts in Citibank.

Other names mentioned in the proffer of evidence were those of the President, First Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, Laarni Enriquez, Guia Gomez, Ms Joy Melendrez and Jose Velarde.

All maintained savings accounts, checking accounts, a time deposit and investments in long-term and short-term commercial papers, treasury bills, government bonds and other investment instruments.

The prosecution maintained that the President did not declare these financial assets in his 1999 Statement of Assets and Liabilities in violation of the country's anti-graft laws.

Prosecutor-Rep. Joker Arroyo earlier said that two checks totaling P8.4 million was deposited by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson into the Citibank account of the First Lady in 1999.

Dante Tan says he paid off Yasay, Almadro

(From page A1)

Tan also said Sen. Renato Cayetano, one of the judges in President Estrada's impeachment trial, made about P70 million trading BW shares. Cayetano, however, denied any wrongdoing. *(See related story on Page 1.)*

Tan granted interviews with the Inquirer and a local radio station after his role in the scandal was mentioned again in the Senate impeachment trial.

He also belied Almadro's testimony in the Senate impeachment trial that the President told him and former PSE president Jose Yulo last year that Tan had bribed Yasay.

Mr. Estrada did nothing about the crime, Almadro said in his testimony on Tuesday. Yulo took the witness stand on Wednesday and corroborated Almadro's testimony.

Yasay is also scheduled to testify and bolster the prosecution's case that the President betrayed the public trust, the third Article of Impeachment, when he intervened on Tan's behalf in the PSE and SEC inquiries into the price-rigging of BW shares.

"What I am doing is not good for me, but I am fed up," Tan said in interviews with the Inquirer and dzMM despite a law that punishes bribery with up to 12 years in prison.

The justice department has filed charges of stock fraud in the Pasig Regional Trial Court against Tan and two associates. All three accused are out on bail.

Tan

"Both of them (Almadro and Yasay) offered to be my lawyer because they know I don't have intention to manipulate," Tan told the Inquirer.

"They were the ones who insisted on helping me, saying they believe I'm innocent," he added.

Tan said Yasay's lawyer, Ben Villamor, asked him in November 1999 for $50,000 allegedly for Yasay's medical expenses in the United States.

According to Tan, Yasay's lawyer also asked him to transfer 200,000 BW shares to a certain Maria Christina Marasigan.

Tan said he later confirmed Yasay's receipt of the cash and shares.

Tan said Yasay returned from his medical operation in the United States in December and told him he would be able to help him in the BW case if he could get the President to extend his term as SEC chair.

Tan said he refused. "I will never dare ask the President to extend the term of a public official," he said.

Yasay's term expired last March, and the President appointed Trade Undersecretary Lilia Bautista as the new SEC chair.

Almadro

At about the same time, Almadro resigned as head of the PSE Compliance and Surveillance group that investigated the BW scandal.

Tan said Almadro also offered to help him in the BW case in exchange for P2.4 million in lawyer's fees

Tan said Almadro made the offer through a certain Nelson Ty who, in turn, contacted the businessman's friend, Carlos Sy.

Tan said he shelled out the P2.4 million and Almadro gave him a set of recommendations on how he could defend himself from charges of stock manipulation.

Tan said his lawyer was not impressed by Almadro's recommendations.

"What I want is people to know the truth. The truth is that I tried to save the exchange. I tried to build the company," Tan said.

"I never unloaded a single share even up to this time. In fact, I spent P2 billion on Oct. 11 for BW shares," he added.

Denials

Both Almadro and Yasay denied Tan's allegations.

"I wasn't surprised by that report anymore because they could not destroy my testimony so they're trying to destroy my credibility and integrity," Almadro told reporters at the Senate trial.

He said he had never accepted bribes.

"You can ask my staff. That is why when I resigned (as PSE Compliance and Surveillance Group head), my staff also resigned," Almadro said.

When the entire CSG staff resigned over a dispute with the PSE over its handling of the BW case, the SEC withdrew the self-regulatory organization status of the PSE.

For his part, Yasay branded Tan's claims as a "demolition job" and challenged his accuser to take the witness stand in the impeachment trial.

Yasay said it was President Estrada as well as former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora who had tried to bribe him so he would clear Tan.

Yasay said he would tell all when he testifies in the Senate trial.

Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol, one of the House prosecutors, dismissed Tan's allegation as part of the defense tactic.

"He is accusing everybody. I hope the President withdraws his mantle of protection over this fellow so that this fellow will be made to answer to this country," Apostol said.

"If you study the whole setup why our stock exchange nearly collapsed, it's because of this fellow. He's one of the worst things that ever happened to this country," he added.

Apostol said the prosecution would be given a change to cross-examine Tan. ***With reports by Martin P. Marfil; Rocky Nazareno; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Yulo confirms . . .

(From page A1)

"And I felt that he wanted me to give some kind of answer or a confirmation of an action of what I should do regarding the investigation of PSE," Yulo said.

Asked how he interpreted the call, Yulo replied: "As I understood it, he wanted me or the PSE to either clear Dante Tan or to come up with a report favorable to him. That was my interpretation and so to get out of the fix, I answered him by saying—'I understand what you're telling me, Mr. President, and I said it in Tagalog.'"

The former PSE president also told Mr. Estrada that the matter was being handled by the CSG, an independent PSE unit.

Yulo promised Mr. Estrada that he would be informed of the findings right after the CSG finished its report.

Mr. Estrada, he said, was quiet for a while but spoke up. "*Kung sabagay, kung may kasalanan, eh wala tayong magagawa diyan. Pero alam mo kaibigan natin iyan, tumutulong iyan, sa Senado pa lang, tumutulong na iyan* (Anyway if he's guilty, then there's nothing we can do. But you know, he's my friend. He's been helping me since I was a senator)."

On the Valentine's Day meeting in Malacañang, Yulo said that he and Almadro gave the President the CSG report and explained to him how Tan manipulated the price of BW stocks.

The President, he said, then told them that he couldn't understand the report. Yulo said this prompted him to point to Page 56, the summary of the BW violations, which could be easily understood.

Mr. Estrada then read it and got interested in two words—"kiting" and "wash sale."

The President said that Tan never told him about the violations and that Tan even claimed that he was the victim, a statement that Yulo contradicted.

Blatant

Yulo also told the President that Tan amassed profits of about P800 million as of June 1999.

"Mr. President, what was done was very blatant," the former PSE president said.

"I talked in English and then I talked to him in Tagalog. '*Sinabi ko na blatant ho at masyado pong garapal. Paulit-ulit po ito at mahirap palampasin* (I said the violations were so blatant and were repeatedly done that these should not go unpunished),'" Yulo said.

In the same conversation, Yulo said that the President shifted the conversation back to the BW scandal and told him that Yasay was "*walanghiya* (shameless)."

It was at this point, Yulo narrated, that Mr. Estrada "surprised" him when the President told them that Tan had "fixed" Yasay.

"*Pagkatapos niyang sabihing 'walanghiya talaga iyan,' sinabi niya na ayon kay Dante ay ayos na* (After saying that Tan was shameless, he said that he was told by Tan that the businessman had bribed Yasay)," Yulo quoted the President as saying.

Yulo said that the President then formed a circle with his thumb and forefinger, which according to the former PSE chief was the "money" sign.

Yulo said that it was apparently an admission that Tan had given Yasay P1 million that prompted the former PSE chair to ask why the President allowed this when he knew that it happened.

The Malacañang visit came after a series of talks between Yulo and several other government officials about the BW stocks that were being heavily traded.

It was before Oct. 15, he said, that the BW stock price started to surge.

Yulo said he raised his concern over the surge in BW stock prices with Yasay.

Yulo said he told the former SEC chair that about P900 million to P1 billion a day was being traded and that it should be controlled as the traders might not be able to come up with the cash.

On cross-examination, defense counsel Jose Flaminiano tried to establish that Yulo had himself acknowledged that while he did receive calls from the President, the latter did not ask him to change the results of the CSG investigation report.

Not complete sentence

Quoting Yulo's testimony on the fourth call he received on Nov. 23 from the President, Flaminiano pointed out that Mr. Estrada told him "*Kung sabagay, kung may kasalanan wala tayong magagawa* (Anyway, if he has done wrong, we cannot do anything)."

But Yulo was quick to point out that Flaminiano did not quote him completely and added that the sentence should have included "*pero malapit kong kaibigan yan (Tan) at matagal na akong tinutulungan niyan mula pa noong nasa Senado ako* (but he is a close friend and he has been helping me before even when I was in the Senate)."

Yulo also explained the circumstances last Tuesday when he found himself inside the session hall while Almadro was still testifying.

"I was in the holding room and had to go to the restroom. It was there that I met (Rep.) Oscar Rodriguez," he said.

He said Rodriguez told him that they were going to be up next and that he took this to mean that he should follow inside the session hall where the prosecutor proceeded.

"I thought I was due to testify," he said.

But Yulo did testify that he conferred with Yasay Tuesday night over dinner at the prosecution safehouse before he took the witness stand.

"This was only to confirm the dates when the President called me," he said.

Flaminiano also questioned Yulo on his previous pronouncements "actively advocating the resignation of Mr. Estrada even before the impeachment trial started."

Yulo explained that he took the position taken by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries which had voted for a "quick resignation of President Estrada as the quick solution" to the country's economic woes.

Flaminiano based his final question on re-cross examination and asked Yulo if his "testimony was affected, at any way, by the fact that you want the President to resign."

As Rodriguez tried to muster an objection, Yulo beat the prosecutor to a ruling by Davide and declared: "Not at all, Your Honor."

Yulo also said that there had been two incidents which he considered to be threats being made on his and his family's life.

Yulo said a "man in *maong* (pants) and *maong* jacket" approached his driver while his car was parked and asked him if it was Yulo's car he was driving.

The unidentified person also asked how many cars Yulo owned.

Another incident had Yulo's maid being asked by another unidentified person at a supermarket several questions about him.

Cayetano grabs limelight in impeach trial

(From page A1)

performance of Yasay's official duties, or betrayal of the public trust.

From the way the defense lawyers handled the cross-examination of Almadro and Yulo, it was apparent they fully recognized the competence and expertise of the two witnesses on the matters they testified on.

The cross-examination was done gingerly. The questions carefully probed the direct testimony for possible errors or memory lapses that could be used to minimize the impact of the witnesses' statements.

It was evident from lawyer Raul Daza's questioning of Almadro that he sought to prove that Tan's investigation was conducted in violation of due process. That Almadro accused, prosecuted and found Tan guilty of stock manipulation without giving him the opportunity to present his side on the accusations against him.

PSE rules

After Almadro cited the rules of the PSE on the fact-finding nature of the investigation his group conducted on Tan, Daza did not pursue the point any further.

Why Daza backed off after Almadro invoked the PSE rules is a puzzler. The issue of due process, or the right of Tan to be heard before he was condemned, could have given the defense the opportunity to question the fairness and objectivity of Almadro's report on Tan.

"Due process of law" has a certain ring that makes people sit up and listen whenever it is invoked. It is a concept the public is most familiar with which, if only for purposes of inviting favorable public reaction, the defense could have discussed to the hilt during Almadro's cross-examination.

While it is true the PSE's rules on investigation of stock manipulation are controlling in regard to its member-brokers, a case for arbitrariness can be raised in its application if the party involved is a private person or somebody who is not under the jurisdiction of the PSE.

Major point for defense

The defense scored a major point when it got Almadro and Yulo to admit on cross-examination that the President did not order any of them to alter or modify the report finding Tan guilty of stock manipulation.

Thus, the defense can argue that assuming the President called up Yulo to intercede for Tan, the President did not commit any act that can be interpreted as interference in the performance of certain duties by Almadro and Yulo that relate to Tan's stock market problems.

In an apparent support of this approach, the defense went out of its way to repeat several times the statement the President made, as testified by Yulo, that "if Tan is really guilty, there is nothing we can do about it."

But whenever the defense lawyer quoted this phrase, Yulo was always quick to add that those words were followed by "but he had been helpful to me since I was a senator." Yulo made sure the sentence was quoted correctly and in its proper context.

Witness bias

Yulo must have been caught flat-footed by the questions of defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano about what he did before he took the witness stand, in particular, those that relate to his meetings with members of the prosecution team in a safehouse.

Short of asking for the safehouse's location and the food Yulo had for dinner when he conferred with the prosecution lawyers, Flaminiano asked Yulo details about his meetings with the prosecution lawyers, Yasay and Almadro. Even Yulo's participation in the "Erap Resign" movement did not escape Flaminiano's probing.

From this line of questioning, only one conclusion could be drawn: The defense was attempting to show that Yulo was a biased witness. He committed himself to the removal of the President even before the accusations against him have been proven. Therefore, Yulo's testimony should not be believed.

Whether or not Yulo's meetings with the prosecution lawyers prior to his testimony and his opinion on the President's moral authority to continue to govern the county will affect his credibility is addressed to the sound judgment of the senator-judges.

Stock market lecture

It was obvious from the way Daza cross-examined Almadro that he (Daza) was unfamiliar with the operations of the stock market. Daza mixed up stock market jargon and could not distinguish one particular type of transaction with another.

Almadro sensed his cross-examiner's predicament. Daza was no match for Almadro with his long years of hands-on experience in stock trading. The defense lawyer practically ate out of Almadro's hands.

Almadro had a field day correcting Daza on his understanding of the transactions Tan engaged in, the names of brokers and the data the investigation group took into account before it submitted its findings to the PSE.

The cross-examination conducted by Daza strengthened, rather than weakened, the points testified on by Almadro. The trial lawyers watching the proceedings on television must have shouted, in the privacy of their rooms, for Daza to call it quits when he sensed he was no match for Almadro on stock market operations.

Yulo will return to the witness stand today to answer questions from the senator-judges. If we go by the questioning of Almadro, Yulo's face-off with the senators will be a walk in the park for him.

It's still Semirara for Metro trash unless…

(From page A1)

He said these would cut the volume of garbage in Metro Manila by as much as 30-50 percent.

Aventajado said the controversy surrounding the dumping project had somehow helped not only to build public awareness of waste segregation but also to secure the budget for the project.

Only the TRO

Gaite said it was only the TRO that was stopping the MMDA and project contractors DM Consunji Inc. (DMCI) and R-II Builders from operating the Interim Integrated Waste Management Facility.

The two firms had formed a consortium that would run the 20-hectare landfill facility in Panian Pit, an active coal mine operated by DMCI subsidiary Semirara Coal Corp.

Yesterday's hearing for the preliminary injunction was postponed to Jan. 12, after Judge Sylvia Jurao of the Antique RTC required the Office of the Solicitor General to represent the MMDA in the case.

Jurao did not entertain the MMDA and the DMCI Holdings Inc. lawyers, saying they were private practitioners.

Executive Judge Nery Duremdes of the Antique RTC earlier handled the petition for injunction filed by the United Antiqueños because Jurao was on leave. It was Duremdes who had issued the TRO.

Jurao allowed only the United Antiqueños to submit its evidence for marking. She asked the defendants to decide on the date of the hearing, and they set it for tomorrow.

It was also agreed that the case would be submitted for resolution on Jan. 15, three days before the TRO's expiration.

The TRO has prevented the three barges loaded with Metro Manila's garbage from docking at the Dapdap Pier when it arrived in Semirara last week.

No lifting

In Manila, the Court of Appeals has refused to lift the 20-day TRO that Duremdes issued.

Instead of immediately ruling on the matter, the court's 12th division yesterday ordered the MMDA, the United Antiqueños and Duremdes to argue their case before it.

The court set the hearing on Jan. 15.

On Monday, the MMDA asked the court to trash the TRO, saying Duremdes committed a grave abuse of discretion in issuing it.

The TRO was sought by Jancom, the firm that lost in the bidding for the MMDA's two-year, P1.4-billion waste development project.

The appellate court's refusal to immediately act on the issue has somehow bolstered the stand of the residents of Antique and nearby Visayan provinces that setting up a landfill in the area is illegal and detrimental to the environment and the residents themselves.

Angry residents have been conducting daily pickets in front of the Dapdap Pier.

Lawyer Violeta Seva, an MMDA representative, denied reports that the garbage from the barges was being swept into the sea by strong winds.

She said the barges left Pier 18 in Manila with a net cover.

The INQUIRER, however, saw that the two barges anchored 100 meters away from the pier had no cover, and that bits and pieces of garbage were being swept ashore.

Streamers and posters protesting the landfill project are plastered all over San Jose, capital town of Antique.

Groups opposing the project have lined up a series of protest actions, including a grand rally on Jan. 16 organized by the Diocese of Antique.

The newly organized "Sagip Semirara, Sagip Boracay Multisectoral Group" based in Boracay, Aklan, yesterday postponed its protest caravan from Caticlan to San Jose to prepare for the grand rally.

Secret dump

While the TRO is in effect, the garbage is being brought to a temporary dump near Semirara, MMDA Chair Jejomar Binay said in a media forum at the Ciudad Fernandina in Manila yesterday.

He declined to reveal the site, saying it was a "secret." He said the garbage in the temporary dump would be moved to Semirara upon the expiry of the TRO.

One source said the temporary dump was near Siquijor, and another said it was a small area that was part of Semirara.

Binay appealed for sobriety and cooperation from Metro Manila residents in the face of a looming garbage crisis.

He said the MMDA was "looking for other places aside from Semirara."

"We should be helping each other, and this is not the time to heap blame on anybody," Binay said. "Hopefully, this will be resolved in 5-10 days, or maybe even less."

Pat Yuson, vice president of R-II builders, warned that open dumps could sprout all over Metro Manila if the crisis remained unresolved.

Yuson said a number of mayors had allowed open dumping and burning of trash in their areas, and were resorting to "guerrilla tactics" in dumping their garbage elsewhere.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya assailed the President, Binay and Aventajado for pursuing the dumping project despite public opposition to it.

"There is money in garbage, and Estrada and his minions know that this is another opportunity for pocketing huge sums from the shipment of metro garbage to Semirara," said Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon.

"The deal between the government and the garbage contractor was a rigged and undisclosed contract, and this is a common practice in the Estrada administration," Sambajon added.

Even Cagayan de Oro

If a proposal pushes through, even Cagayan de Oro City's garbage will be dumped on Semirara.

In a faxed message to Mayor Vicente Emano on May 22, 2000, Pierre Yves Cote, president of Stratexport Philippines, said Celdex Environmental Technologies Inc. had offered to barge the city's solid waste to Semirara.

"This would reduce significantly the cost of disposing of Cagayan de Oro's solid waste," Cote said.

Stratexport is the company commissioned by the Cagayan de Oro City Council to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a Celdex sanitary landfill there.

Celdex has also won the bidding for the development of a sanitary landfill for the MMDA. ***With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila; Ellen P. Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

DOH chief bats for incinerators

By Norman Bordadora

HEALTH Secretary Alberto Romualdez yesterday batted for the amendment of the Clean Air Act so the use of incinerators would be legalized and ultimately solve the worsening garbage problem in the metropolis.

Romualdez aired the suggestion by way of expressing the health department's concern over the uncollected garbage in many parts of Metro Manila and the controversy involving the government's plan to dump the metropolis' garbage on Semirara Island in Antique.

"My personal position is we do not yet have anything better to treat our garbage. We should not tie our hands by rejecting technology just because (it) may cause some pollution problems," he said.

Romualdez said uncollected garbage posed risks not only to the environment but also to public health, and could give rise to epidemics of hepatitis-A and "other food-borne diseases."

He particularly cited hospital waste, much of which is infectious in nature.

According to Romualdez, the Clean Air Act that outlaws the use of incinerators for garbage disposal can still be amended because it has yet to be fully enforced.

He said inefficient garbage disposal was more dangerous than air pollution.

THE AMAZING Rey Pagtakhan confers with Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Ottawa as secretary of state for the Asia-Pacific region.

Ping probes Atong links to kidnapping

(From page A1)

Director General Panfilo Lacson disclosed that he had received information that Ang had negotiated for the release of a member of the Sy family of the Liana's supermarket chain.

Lacson made the disclosure as he announced that he had ordered the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force to investigate the allegations which surfaced Tuesday.

"We have to go back to the records. There was information that Ang negotiated on behalf of the Sy family," Lacson told reporters.

"And in one day, payment was made by the victim's family. I heard that Ang negotiated with the kidnappers. We will check the records because it was, I think, reported to the PNP before," he added.

The PNP chief said that he did not act on the report at the time because he was on "floating status and had no assignments."

Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim ordered Lacson to submit a full report within a week, even as a lawyer for Ang said his client would file libel charges against Teresita Ang-See, spokesperson of Citizens' Action Against Crime (CAAC), and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson, for linking the businessman to kidnapping groups.

For his part, President Estrada questioned the timing of Ang-See's revelations and dared her to prove her allegations so that Ang, a close friend of his, could be arrested.

"*Ipahuli natin kaagad si Atong Ang kung may katotohanan yung sinabi niya* (If what she is saying is true, we will have Atong Ang arrested)," the President said in an interview in San Miguel, Bulacan, where he inaugurated a new bridge.

Ang-See said on Tuesday that the Chinese-Filipino community had reported to Mr. Estrada Ang's alleged involvement in at least three kidnappings from 1996 to 1998. She also said that a relative of a kidnap victim revealed that Ang had masterminded the victim's abduction.

"This is a serious matter that needs immediate investigation to determine its veracity," a press release quoted Lim as saying.

He demanded a thorough investigation and said "it should be carried out without fear or favor," according to the statement.

No sacred cows

"There should be no sacred cows in our desire to determine the truth of the matter. And if evidence warrants, then appropriate criminal charges should be filed against" Ang, Lim said.

Lacson directed Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao II, PAOCTF chief for Luzon, to conduct the probe.

"We will look into this. It is the mandate of the PAOCTF to (investigate) this, but I will also ask the PNP to coordinate with the task force. We will see if there's basis and we will file charges if there is evidence," Lacson told reporters in an ambush interview.

Puzzled

The President said that he could "not accuse anyone without an investigation," and chided Ang-See for not having gone to Lacson or to the PAOCTF with her information.

He said he was puzzled about Ang-See's decision to reveal Ang's alleged involvement only now, instead of four years ago while she was actively helping the then Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) in its campaign to stop kidnappings. Then Vice President Estrada was the head of the PACC

"When I was PACC chair, (Ang-See) used to run to me or to Lacson to report a kidnapping case. But why did it take her four years to spill the beans regarding Ang?" he asked in Filipino.

Asked whether he did not believe the charges against Ang, the President said that he was not making a defense in his friend's behalf.

"It is not that I don't believe them, (but) we should first go to proper authorities" with the charges, he said.

But Ang-See told the INQUIRER that she approached Mr Estrada shortly before the 1998 elections. The presidential candidate ordered an entrapment operation but the family of the kidnap victim refused to cooperate

'Trial by publicity'

Mr. Estrada suggested that the allegations were part of a supposed smear campaign orchestrated by his critics.

"They could be timing it with the impeachment trial. They want to tie it up with the impeachment trial to hit me all the more," he said.

He said it was clear that Ang-See and other critics were subjecting him to a "trial by publicity" by "coming out with many claims that are not part of the charges in the impeachment trial."

He also said the accusations might have something to do with the reported plan of defense lawyers to present Ang as a witness at the impeachment trial. Ang is expected to counter Singson's testimony that the President received cuts from jueteng collections through Ang.

"Just because Ang is testifying, they are now making all these" accusations against him, Mr. Estrada said.

"Who is making this claim, Singson? But he is not credible," he said.

Ang-See had corroborated a claim by Singson, who had tagged Ang as the "negotiator" of a gang of kidnappers in the Chinese-dominated Binondo district.

Lacson said that since there was no formal complaint from any victim's family, the allegations could not serve as bases for filing charges.

Getting ready

Ang's lawyer Alfredo Villamor said his team was "collating documents and other records to prepare for the filing of a libel case" against Ang-See and Singson. He added that the team was also collecting tapes of radio interviews with the two.

"We deny it outright," said Villamor of the accusation against his client.

Ang-See had also said that police authorities could not take any action against Ang because the families of the kidnap victims refused to cooperate with the police out of fear.

Like the President, Villamor questioned Ang-See's motives and "timing," saying "This malicious attribution could be attributed to the fact that the prosecution is finishing its case and this black propaganda is being made in the anticipation that Ang will testify."

He said there was "an invisible hand with the intention of putting the credibility of Mr. Ang in doubt if ever he testifies."

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) warned that investor confidence in the country could plummet further because of the latest accusations against another friend of Mr. Estrada's. ***With reports from Philip Tubeza; AP***

Caviteño . . .

(From page A1)

Rey Pagtakhan, a doctor and naturalized Canadian citizen, was appointed secretary of state for the Asia-Pacific region by Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

Born in Cavite in 1935, Pagtakhan graduated in medicine from the University of the Philippines before leaving for the United States to pursue further medical studies. He moved to Canada in 1968. He won his first race for a parliament seat 20 years later and has been re-elected since from his home district in Winnipeg.

Chretien named Pagtakhan, his one-time parliamentary secretary, to fill the position previously held by Raymond Chan, who was defeated in a bid for re-election to parliament in Canada's November election.

Pagtakhan, who turned 66 on Sunday, called his new appointment part of a continuing "political experiment" that began in 1988 when he took a leave of absence from his work as a pediatrician to enter politics

"I'm really excited," he said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

At a reception given in his honor at an Edmonton Hotel in May, he said he had entered politics "to give back to Canada the many favors I've received in this country."

"But you must work to win," he told a reporter, adding that in his first parliamentary bid, he was an underdog fighting to unseat the incumbent.

" As a parliamentarian, Dr. Rey is the perfect example of a true public servant," federal Justice Minister Anne McLellan told 200 well-wishers, many of whom were officers of Filipino organizations in Edmonton.

In his interview with the AP, Pagtakhan was reluctant to comment in detail on major issues until after receiving formal briefings, but he said his focus would be on "economic prosperity, regional security and rule of law."

He said he expected to consider opportunities for expanded contact with North Korea, and to examine issues such as human rights and justice in China.

The Canadian Embassy in Manila said Pagtakhan's job involves the promotion of Canada's economic, commercial and political relations with Asia-Pacific countries.

Pagtakhan was elected in 1988 as representative of the constituency of Winnipeg North, a position he held for three consecutive terms.

He was also chair of the House of Commons committees on human rights and on citizenship and immigration.

After graduating from the UP, Pagtakhan took postgraduate studies at the Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis and at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

A lung specialist as well as a professor of pediatrics, Pagtakhan was a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians, president of the Manitoba Pediatric Society and director of the Manitoba Cystic Fibrosis Center.

He has contributed to medical textbooks and journals and received such awards as the Manila Medical Society First Prize for basic research, the Joint Missouri-St. Louis Heart Association Research Fellowship, and the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Medal.

Pagtakhan and his wife Gloria have four sons and a grandchild. ***With a report from AP***

Sotto says Erap . . .

(From page A1)

merely an "OK" sign.

"What do Filipinos consider as a hand gesture for OK?" Almadro said at a press conference held after he was excused from the witness stand.

Answering his own question, he showed reporters the thumbs-up sign, saying this was the way Filipinos conveyed the message.

On Tuesday, Almadro implicated President Estrada in efforts to clear his close friend, BW Resources chair Dante Tan, of charges of insider trading and stock manipulation.

Almadro, former chief of the compliance and surveillance group of the Philippine Stock Exchange, claimed in his direct testimony that the President flashed thumb and forefinger forming a circle to indicate that Tan had bribed then Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay.

The SEC was then looking into the charges against Tan.

Almadro recalled that Mr. Estrada even used the term "*inayos*" in describing what Tan had done during their discussion, which took place in Malacañang on Feb. 14, 2000.

"Inayos" is the Filipino colloquial term for having bribed someone.

Sotto's theory

But yesterday, Day 19 of the impeachment trial, Sotto propounded his theory that Almadro may have misinterpreted the President's hand signal.

According to Sotto, when the whole hand is pointed upward with thumb and forefinger forming a circle, this means the person indicates he/she is fine or OK.

He said this gesture was commonly used "in sports like practical shooting, scuba diving and military operations.

"But when you flash the same hand signal downward, that is when money becomes involved," Sotto said in Filipino.

Almadro replied that in the context of his conversation with Mr. Estrada, at which then PSE president Jose Luis "Nonoy" Yulo was also present, "it was very clear that what the President meant was that Tan bribed Yasay."

"But of course, that is your impression," Sotto countered. "The President did not say anything that would say (so) except that sign, which is the international sign for 'OK.'"

Almadro replied in Filipino: "The President said Tan already 'fixed' Yasay and made that sign. That means Tan bribed Yasay because that is what his hand signal meant."

"But the President did not say anything about money," Sotto said.

"None, but he didn't have to because he was already gesturing, and the gesture meant that money was involved," Almadro said.

Everything OK

Sotto retorted: "In other words, that is your impression. But there could be other impressions. It could mean 'everything is OK,' just like in sports and the military. Would that be possible?"

Almadro answered: "That would be possible, but very improbable in this particular case."

Later at the press conference, Almadro said he had "not seen anybody make that gesture"—the hand pointing upward, with the thumb and forefinger forming a circle—except "to pertain to money."

"This is what means OK to me," he said, making the thumbs-up sign.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PEA TOLLWAY CORPORATION (PEATC)

G/F, Bayview Int'l. Tower III
Roxas Blvd., Parañaque City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED SCRAP MATERIALS LOCATED AT PEA TOLLWAY COMPOUND, SAN DIONISIO, PARAÑAQUE CITY.

"AS IS WHERE IS"

Item No.	Qty.	Unit	Unit Weight (Kgs/pc)	Total Weight (Kgs)	Description
1		rolls		6,950	Electrical cables, various sizes (22mm² Ø, 32mm² Ø, 38mm² Ø, 50mm² Ø)
2	776	Pcs.	45	34,920	Galvanized steel guardians (3.80mm x 500mm x 4.13m)
3	213	Pcs.	28	5,964	Galvanized steel guardrailposts (3.80mm x 150mm x 1.85m)
4	217	Pcs.	5	1,085	Galvanized steel guardrail spacer (3.80mm x 150mm x 500m)
5	1	Ea			Paper Copier, Toshiba 2540 Tricom Dynamics (as is)
6	32	Pcs.			Used Rubber tires, assortes sizes
7	24	gal.			Industrial liquid floor wax

NOTES:

1. Unit costs for items 1, 2 and 3 shall be per kilogram.
2. All items shall be picked-up at site.

Invitation is open to all Filipino firms, companies or individuals with the Financial Capability.

Sealed bids shall be submitted to: The CHAIRMAN, Committee on Disposal, PEA Tollway Corporation, G/F, Bayview International Tower III, Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City, Metro Manila not later than 2:00 p.m. on **January 22, 2001**.

PEATC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. PEATC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. BRICCIO B. HULIGANGA, JR.**
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON DISPOSAL

(PDI - Jan 10 11 & 12 2001)

CEPALCO

CAGAYAN ELECTRIC POWER & LIGHT CO., INC.
8th Floor Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Complex, Pasig City, Philippines

An Invitation for Expression of Interest for the Proposed 1,000 kW Photovoltaic (PV) Plant Turn-key Project

Expression of Interest is hereby solicited from qualified and interested PV manufacturers, integrators and/or contractors to bid for the grid-connected 1,000 kW Photovoltaic (PV) Plant Turn-key Project in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines. Interested parties are advised to send their Expression of Interest, together with a brief description of their company, experiences in actual grid-connected PV project design, specifications, installation and commissioning, and a list of their past, present and future projects in grid-connected PV, in a maximum of four (4) pages A4 size paper, to:

CRISANTO R. LASET, JR.
Assistant Vice President
CEPALCO, 8/F Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Complex, Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. +632 6311581 to 84; Fax: +632 6312901
Email: cepl@quickweb.com.ph

With copies furnished to:

CECILIO U. SUMAOY
Project In-Charge
CEPALCO, 44 Toribio Chavez St.,
Cagayan de Oro City, 9000 Philippines
Tel. No.: +63 8822 722 372
Fax No.: +63 8822 723 775
Email: cusumaoy@cepalco.com.ph

EDWARD C. KERN, Jr., Ph.D.
Project Technical Advisor
Applied Power Corporation
Ascension Technology Division
235 Bear Hill Road, Waltham,
Massachusetts 02451 USA
Tel. No.: +1 781 684 6101
Fax No. +1 781 890 2050
E-mail: ekern@ascensiontech.com

Email correspondence must be followed by exact hard copies and must be received by above recipients not later than **5:00 p.m. (Philippine Time) of January 18, 2001**. A letter of Invitation to Bid will be sent after January 25, 2001 only to those who have expressed their intention to bid.

(Sgd.) **CRISANTO R. LASET, JR.**

(PDI Jan 11 2001)

Funboard finally flagged off

BORACAY—Competitors in the Cutty Sark Boracay Funboard Cup, so eager to compete after the cancellation of Monday's schedule, were finally flagged off Tuesday only to get stalled anew later in the afternoon due to lack of winds.

Only five heats involving the 60 participants representing 12 countries were completed shortly before noon organizers from the Asian Windsurfing Tour called it a day at around 3 o'clock after failing to get the minimum wind requirement of 12 knots.

Morning races in the 3.6 km, 5-turn course were held under perfect sailing conditions with the wind hitting the meter at 18-20 knots. First-day action last Monday was also scratched due to lack of winds. A check with the International Weather Station on the Internet showed stronger wind forecasts staring Thursday.

The first four heats raced Wednesday featured 15 riders from the five different classes—ladies, men's (29-under), junior masters (30-39), masters (40-above) and open. The top seven finishers from each heat advanced to the winners' bracket and the rest to the losers' bracket.

So far, the five-man Cutty Sark team led by 1991 Manila SEA Games gold medalist Eduardo "Visegrip" Fajermo is in good shape with just one entry—youthful architect Ian Bautista—failing to make it to the top seven in heat 4 where he raced with Fajermo.

Aside from the 34-year-old Fajermo, who owns a surfing school in Anilao, Batangas, Filipinos who advanced into the winners' bracket were businessman Manny Cabili (heat 1), RFM Corp. employee Rico Cumayas (heat 2) and German Paz, a two-time SEAG campaigner (heat 3).

The foreign favorites, including reigning back-to-back champion Robbie Radis of Australia and 1992 Barcelona Olympics veteran Suh Yong Keun of Korea, lived up to expectations. Radis finished behind compatriot Mike Nelson in heat 4 while Suh topped heat 2.

M'daluyong derby tonite

ANOTHER jampacked crowd is expected at Mandaluyong Coliseum when the 2nd Ucap Cobra/JBB Blue Blade Balbina 6-Cock Derby" championship round rages at 7 tonight, bannering more than 45 fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

Entries BJ Greenwood and BJ Greenwood I of Ucap president Butch Macasatet and Joey delos Santos racked up four straight points, to lead the unbeaten qualifiers (two points each) that include Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina II), Robert So (RS), Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Winning Line), R. Pamatmat (RFP Argem Coliseum Jan. 26), Tony Litonjua and P. Antonio (Starwars Sagupaan) and Boyboy Roa (PBRJ Farm).

Interested parties may contact 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

The next derby at Mandaluyong Coliseum, the "3rd Ucap/Altuz 6-Cock Derby," is scheduled on Jan. 23 and Jan. 25, hosted by lawyer Ram Lopez.

Small-time cockers get their chance on Jan. 27, via the "El Grande 4-Cock Derby" hosted by the El Grande group of Pasay.

Entry fee is P8,800.

The "Mandaluyong Coliseum 9-Cock International Derby" is set on Jan. 30, Feb. 1 and Feb. 3.

Roligon tilt cocker's dream

"IT'S every cocker's dream."

Thus said Buddy Robregado in describing the P10-M Roligon 11th Grand Anniversary 7-Cock Derby that begins on Jan. 16.

Robregado joins a record field of more than 500 cockers and breeders who will be competing in the richest, longest and biggest cocking event in history.

With the huge prize purse, a 4-door Toyota RAV-4, a bonus for the champion and a P1-million handler's prize at stake, participants are expected to go all out in any of the 10 separate qualifying rounds.

Hosted by Rolly Ligon, the P10-M derby is jointly sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds and San Miguel Beer.

"We would like to advise all the participants that they are required to pay the entry fee first before submitting the weights of their preliminary round fighters," Roligon's chief match maker Fred Canumay announced.

Meanwhile, the list of confirmed entries continue to build up with the number now passing the 300 mark.

Among the early entries include Sedfrey Linsangan of Guam, Eddie Appari, Rudy Salud, Erning Rivera, Henry Tan, Bonifacio Gomez, Moroy Dolorico, Rolly Liboro, Col. Senoza, Julie Cui, Edmund Y. Ruaro, Romy Borcelis (Power bullets I & II) and Nixon Dizon.

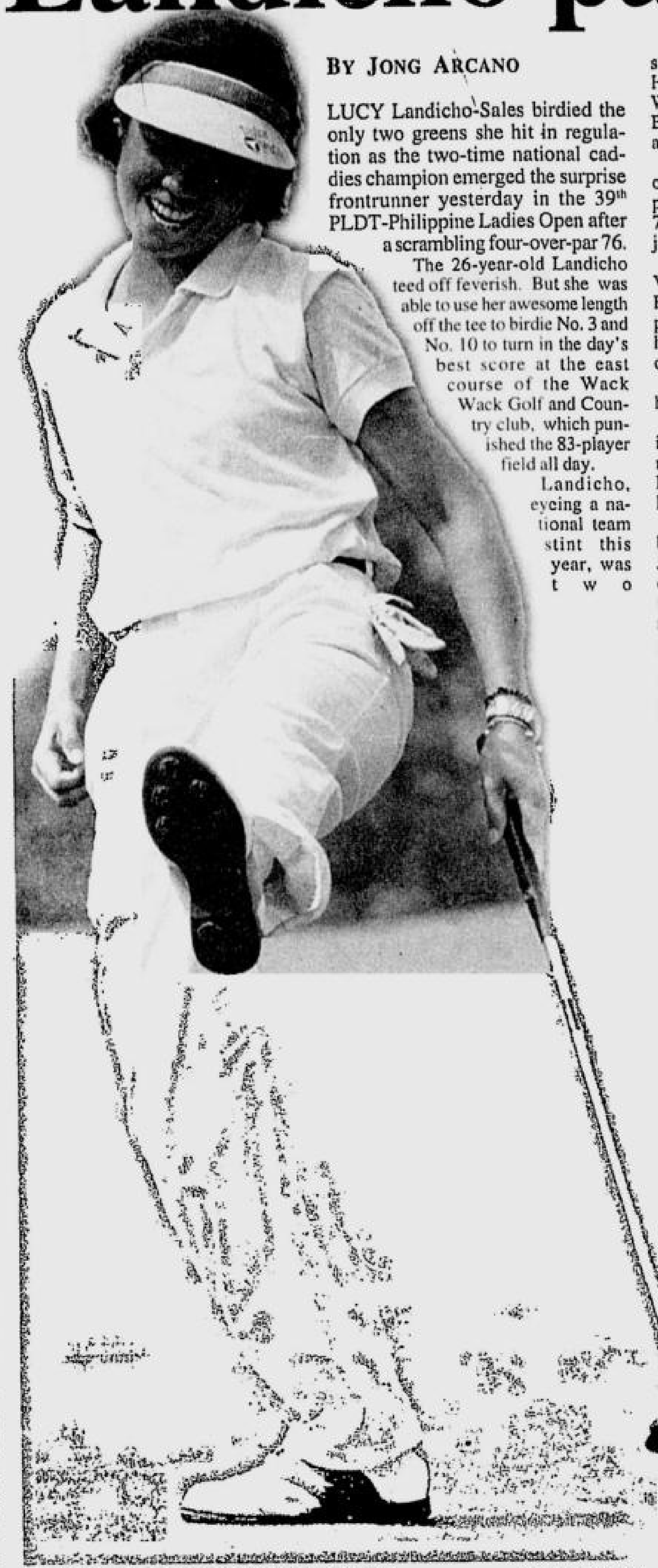
Motocross meeting

HARTEBEEST Entertainment Corp., organizer of the 2001 PLDT National Motocross Championship, will hold a riders meeting on Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Café Ysabel, P. Guevarra, San Juan, starting at 2 p.m.

ONE-PUTTS 9 HOLES

Landicho paces Ladies Open

By Jong Arcano



LANDICHO: Sizzling hot with her putter. ROMY HOMILLADA

LUCY Landicho-Sales birdied the only two greens she hit in regulation as the two-time national caddies champion emerged the surprise frontrunner yesterday in the 39th PLDT-Philippine Ladies Open after a scrambling four-over-par 76.

The 26-year-old Landicho teed off feverish. But she was able to use her awesome length off the tee to birdie No. 3 and No. 10 to turn in the day's best score at the east course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country club, which punished the 83-player field all day.

Landicho, eyeing a national team stint this year, was two strokes ahead of Taiwanese bet Shih Huei Ju, 1988 winner Ruby Chico Walker and jungolfer Sarah Jane Esguerra, who all carded similar 78s on a humid day.

The fancied Aileen Rose Yao, who once reigned as a world age-group champion, fell three strokes behind after a 79, the same score submitted by jungolfer Jayvee Agojo.

Two other ex-titlists, Carmelette Villaroman-Calimag (1993) and Grace Ebalde (1980), floundered early in the punishing length of the course that will host this year's RP Open got the best of them.

Ebalde carded a 90 while Carmelette had an 83.

Two prominent ladies who figured in a controversial case in the impeachment trial recently–Bettina Aboitiz and Rosanna Fores–stole the show from the leaders.

Aboitiz and Fores, who were ordered banished from the gallery by Senator-Judge Miriam Santiago after being accused of allegedly making annoying moves, showed up to enjoy a day in the sun and away from the glare of the impeachment coverage.

"They were told to be careful as they might get ejected from the course," said a smiling Gina Tuason, president of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines.

Though Fores (112) and Aboitiz (115) didn't really come close to the leaders, the two regulars of the Manila Golf Club vowed to play all the way to the finish.

Landicho, meantime, couldn't believe she did a 76 and become the leader.

She one-putted for par nine times as her impeccable putting saved the day for the Canlubang mainstay who was 1-under through 10 holes but bogeyed six of the last eight holes.

"I just got lucky on some putts, my putter saved me at least nine strokes today," said Landicho.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - North Carolina Tar Heels vs Maryland Terrapins at 8 a.m. (r – tomorrow at 3:30 a.m.), Duke Blue Devils vs NC State Wolfpack at 10 a.m. and Syracuse Orangemen vs Rutgers Scarlet Knights at 4:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

15th ABC Championship for Junior Women 2000 Highlights at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA – Portland Trailblazers vs Philadelphia 76ers at 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13

GOLF: PGA Year in Review 2000 at 8 a.m. (r- 6 p.m.) on Star Sports

Senior PGA Tour Year In Review 2000 at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

ICE SKATING. Katarina Witt's Divas on Ice 2000 at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SWIMMING: World Cup Highlights at 7 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

DHL event held to select RP team

THE SEARCH for members of the Southeast Asian Games team begins with the sixth DHL Amateur Open, the event acknowledged as the national stroke play championship, set on Jan. 16-19 at Canlubang.

Hoping to assemble a strong contingent for this years SEAG in Kuala Lumpur, the National Golf Association of the Philippines intends to use the DHL Open as one of the qualifying tournaments for the selection of the national squad.

"The SEA Games is always a prime concern for the NGAP considering that we've always been among the best in the region," said Iggy Clavecilla, tournament chair of the NGAP. "We should get a picture of the kind of team we'll have for Malaysia after the DHL Open."

Registration for the event ends on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 5 p.m. Entry fee is P1,5000. Only players with handicaps of seven or lower (men) and 10 or lower (women) are eligible to compete.

It is also because of the SEA Games' concern that NGAP president Rod Feliciano has ordered the addition of a women's competition to the annual tournament supported by DHL, the leading courier worldwide service company.

Feliciano has accepted the top three finishers of the Uratex national caddies tilt into the talented field—champion Jay Bayron, runner-up Julieto Espuerta and third placer Ruben dela Rosa.

The trio's participation will be bankrolled by sports patron and Uratex top honcho Robert Cheng.

They will be pitting skills with battle-tested players, including reigning national amateur champion Angelo Que, Cookie, La'O, Jherome Delariarte, Solomon Gines and Juvic Pagunsan.

Defending champion Gerard Cantada, meanwhile, has informed organizers that he's a doubtful starter due to a previous commitment to run a jungolf event at Wack Wack.

Men's play is for 72 holes while the women's action is only for 54 holes.

PAL Interclub in Cebu set Feb. 22-March 2

DANAO CITY--The Philippine Airlines Interclub, the country's most storied golf team tournament, returns to its historical roots with the staging of its annual championships in Cebu next month.

The 54th edition of the regular Men's Interclub, universally acknowledged as the national amateur golf team championship, will be played from Feb. 27 to March 2.

It will be preceded by the 15th staging of the Seniors Interclub, a separate tournament for the clubs' senior players, from Feb. 22-24. This will be the first time that the Seniors event will be held over three days, a concession to the record number of teams entered this year.

Both tourneys will be jointly played on the province's two premier golf courses—the time-tested Cebu Country Club in the heart of Cebu City and the mint-new links of Club Filipino de Cebu in the hills above this northern industrial city

The dates and venues were set during the team captains' meeting at the Club Filipino here recently. This year's theme is "Balik Cebu," reflecting the tournament's homecoming to its favorite host city.

As of press time, 69 men's and 49 seniors teams have confirmed their participation in next month's event. They include 31 contingents from overseas, including clubs in Sydney, Tokyo, Xiamen, Singapore, San Francisco, Vancouver, Riyadh and Dhahran.

The roster for the Cebu Interclub is the largest ever, surpassing the attendance in last year's competition in Cagayan de Oro, which drew 59 men's and 48 seniors teams.

The Interclub's return to Cebu after a gap of 12 years renews an indelible link with the province stretching back to the tournament's earliest days more than 50 years ago.

In 1949, Club Filipino de Cebu, then located at the present site of the Cebu Business Park in uptown Cebu City, hosted the second staging of the Interclub---the first time the tourney was held outside Manila.

Over the next five decades, the club hosted the event a record 15 times, the most by any golf course. Cebu Country Club, on the other hand, has staged the Interclub twice, in 1965 and 1983

During a span of six consecutive years, from 1984 to 1989, Club Filipino was the official home of the tournament. But the course's untimely closure in 1989 led to the tilt's temporary exile from Cebu.

Shark eyes revenge vs Blu today

STANDING	W	L
Shark Energy	8	2
Welcoat Paints	8	3
Blu Sun Power	6	4
Montaña	6	4
Hapee	5	6
Ateneo Pioneer	4	6

GAME TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—MLQU-Boysen vs Dazz-Letran
5:30 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Shark Energy

By Dennis U. Eroa

THERE'LL be no love lost between sister teams Shark Energy Drink and Blu Sun Power when they collide today in the PBL Challenge Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Shark bowed to Blu, 61-57, in the elimination round but coach Leo Austria vowed something 'different' in their 5:30 p.m. encounter before an expected jampacked crowd.

"We played below par in the eliminations. Some of my players weren't in excellent shape," Austria said. "This time, it will be a different story."

Austria's new-found confidence was brought upon by the new-found enthusiasm being dispayed by slotman Ryzal Castro and MVP Roger Yap during practices. Shark last played on Dec. 23 against Montaña Jewels but the long break didn't appear to worry Austria a bit.

"I am satisfied with our practices. I feel that the 19-day break will make the team hungrier," Austria said.

Deadly with their transition defense and halfcourt game, Shark faces a Blue team known for its tenacity and ability to thrive under tremendous pressure.

Though parading a shorter lineup, the Detergent Kings made it to the six-team semifinals mainly because of their big fighting hearts.

Shooters Egay Billones, Eric de la Cuesta and Edwin Bacani are playing heads-up basketball but Austria thinks he has solved the Blu puzzle.

"We prepare something special for Marlon Legaspi. If he is shackled, Blu's wingmen will find it hard to operate," Austria said.

Dubbed as the Legaspi Tower, the 6-foot-4 Legaspi is currently leading the MVP statistical race.

Castro, Erwin Velez and Irvin Sotto will try to handcuff Legaspi in the middle. Shark is also expected to double-team Legaspi.

Yap, Chester Tolomia, Gilbert Malabanan, Egay Echavez and Michael Robinson will give Shark the needed bite to repulse Blu.

The semifinal is a one-round robin affair with the top two teams advancing to the best-of-seven championship series.

"This is an important game for us. I feel that a victory will further inspire the team to make its second straight final appearance," Austria said.

In the curtain-raiser at 3:30 p.m., bemedalled Manuel Luis Quezon University tackles Dazz-Letran with the winner advancing to a final showdown with early finalist Skyland Estate in the inaugural PYBL.

Bannered by top Pampangueño dribblers, Skyland Estate drubbed Mercury Freight-St. Benilde, 90-71, last Jan. 9 to gain the first final slot.

Hornets beat Bulls, 102-95

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—David Wesley scored 28 points and the Charlotte Hornets won the first triple-overtime game in their history, beating the Chicago Bulls, 102-95.

The Hornets rallied from a 19-point deficit in the third quarter to win their 12th consecutive home game Tuesday night.

76ers 104, Nets 87

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Theo Ratliff came within two blocks of a triple-double and Allen Iverson scored 22 points as the NBA's best road team, the Philadelphia 76ers, ran their winning streak to seven games with a victory over the New Jersey Nets

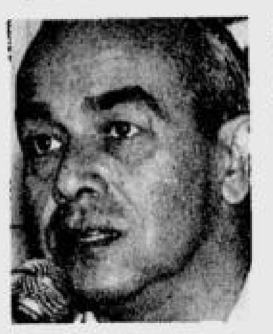
It was the ninth consecutive road victory for the Sixers, who are 16-4 on the road—10-1 against teams from the East.

Complete results: Houston 110, Toronto 91; Charlotte 102, Chicago 95, 3OT; Seattle 95, Atlanta 86; Philadelphia 104, New Jersey 87; Milwaukee 99, Washington 95; San Antonio 112, Orlando 95; Utah 103, Indiana 99; Denver 112, Vancouver 105. *AP*

VENUE ROW

Tuason wants appeal first

By June Navarro



TUASON

ONCE National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) officials appeal their case before the Office of the Chairman, the Philippine Sports Commission will immediately allow the resumption of the games at two venues within the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

PSC Chair Carlos Tuason yesterday came up with this idea a day after NCRAA officials criticized the PSC of impeding grassroots development after PSC cordoned off the Rizal Memorial basketball court and the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Basketball and volleyball games were cancelled when organizers failed to settle their debt to the PSC.

"I'm waiting for them (NCRAA officials) to write an appeal but up to now I haven't received a request to reconsider the PSC's position," said Tuason, stressing the PSC is willing to accept a promissory note once NCRAA officials ask for a reconsideration.

The OSC was asking the league to pay at least P200,000 for the games to resume. It was learned that the P200,000 was part of the P507,000 the NCRAA was supposed to pay under the uniform standard rate the agency enforced for all school sports.

The restriction order came from PSC operations chief Rufino Geronimo as per instruction of PSC commissioner Richie Garcia.

Records show that the PSC, as early as November last year, notified the NCRAA officials about the P507,000 rental and operational fees they would have to settle.

NCRAA games at Lyceum gym

THE 8TH McDonald's-National Capital Region Athletic Association basketball tournament semifinals resumed yesterday at a new venue—Lyceum gym.

The league was denied the use of the Rizal Memorial Coliseum and the Ninoy Aquino Stadium by the Philippine Sports Commission on Tuesday after failing to pay P200,000 in debt on rentals and operating expenses.

NCRAA officials said no previous notice was given about the impending closure and lamented the PSC's new policy requiring all "collegiate leagues" to pay at least 50 percent of the usual rental.

They also said the present PSC administration simply junked the old policy granting school leagues a 95 percent discount for the use of its facilities.

PSC chair Carlos Tuason said the Basketball Association of the Philippines has not filed an appeal to the PSC and proper communication had been made with regards to the new policy.

Yesterday's games saw Lyceum dump PMI, 90-77, for its ninth straight win and St. Francis bow to Olivarez College, 67-56. Colegio de San Lorenzo nipped PSBA-QC; 74-71, while PUP downed Emilio Aguinaldo College, 94-91, both in overtime.

Unknown stuns Safin

MELBOURNE, Australia—US Open champion Marat Safin fumbled through a quick first-round loss Wednesday in a warm-up for the Australian Open, and said a sore elbow made it impossible to play better.

"I'm afraid of making it worse. I don't want to be out six months," Safin said after his 6-2, 6-1 loss to France's Nicolas Escude in the Colonial Classic. He said he would need to correct his serving motion.

In other matches, Spanish Davis Cup hero Juan Carlos Ferrero beat Pete Sampras 6-2, 6-4, and Olympic gold medalist Yevgeny Kafelnikov defeated two-time US Open champion Patrick Rafter 6-2, 6-2. *AP*

Hingis-Williams in quarterfinals

SYDNEY, Australia —Top-ranked Martina Hingis swept Kim Clijsters in straight sets Wednesday to advance to a quarterfinal against fifth-seeded Serena Williams at the Adidas International.

In second-round upsets at the Australian Open tuneup, Corina Morariu of the United States erased sixth-seeded Anna Kournikova 6-2, 6-1 and Lisa Raymond ousted fellow American Jennifer Capriati 2-6, 6-3, 7-5. *AP*

German tops Dakar 9th stage

EL GHALLAOUYIA, Mauritania—Germany's Jutta Kleinschmidt, driving a Mitsubishi, edged out Jean-Louis Schlesser in a Schlesser Megane to take the ninth special stage of the Dakar Rally here on Tuesday.

Kleinschmidt took just shy of five-and-a-half hours to negotiate the 518km stage around El Ghallaouyia, the course including several dune crossings as unofficial times put her 1 minute 19 seconds ahead of Schlesser. *AP*

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R. Bull seeks another Fil-Am in PBA draft

By Roy Luarca

DON'T be surprised if Batang Red Bull picks a player other than Willie Miller or John Arigo on the PBA drafting on Sunday.

Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao bared to the INQUIRER that Michael Hrabak, a Fil-Am like Arigo, has muddled the picture.

Guiao yesterday said they have it on good sources that the 21-year-old Hrabak was actually taller than the 6-foot-6 listed on his data sheet and may be the steal of this year's draft.

"We tried to access his name and even his supposed school (Central Arizona College), but we couldn't find any information," said Guiao. "A friend also told me that Hrabak is good, so we're taking another look at him."

Before the information on Hrabak came, Guiao was focused on the high-flying acrobatic Miller of the Nueva Ecija Patriots and the highly touted Arigo of the University of Tampa.

The 5-foot-11 Miller and the 6-foot-5 Arigo have been practicing with the Red Bull Thunder, who own the first pick, and both of them were to Guiao's liking.

Miller will give the Thunder a solid player who can play both the point and the No. 2 spot, while Arigo is reportedly a sweet shooter near the mould of Reggie Miller.

Other prominent names among the 57 qualified applicants are Gilbert Demape of the Manila Metrostars, Ato Morano of the Pampanga Dragons and Francis Adriano of the Pasig-Rizal Pirates.

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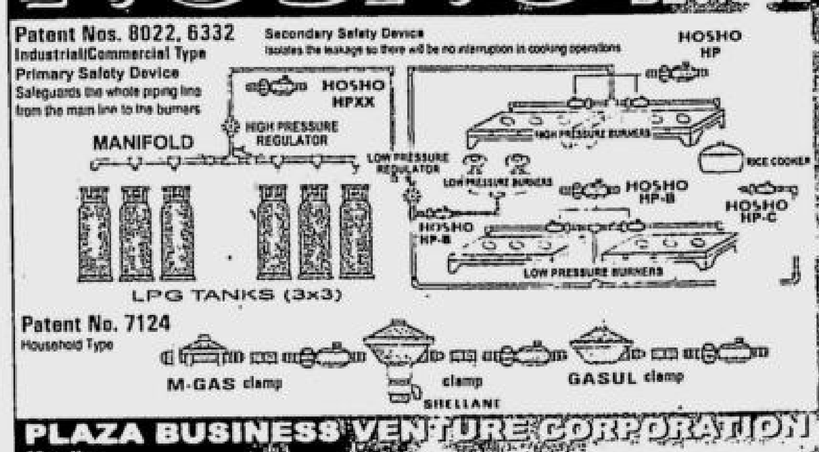

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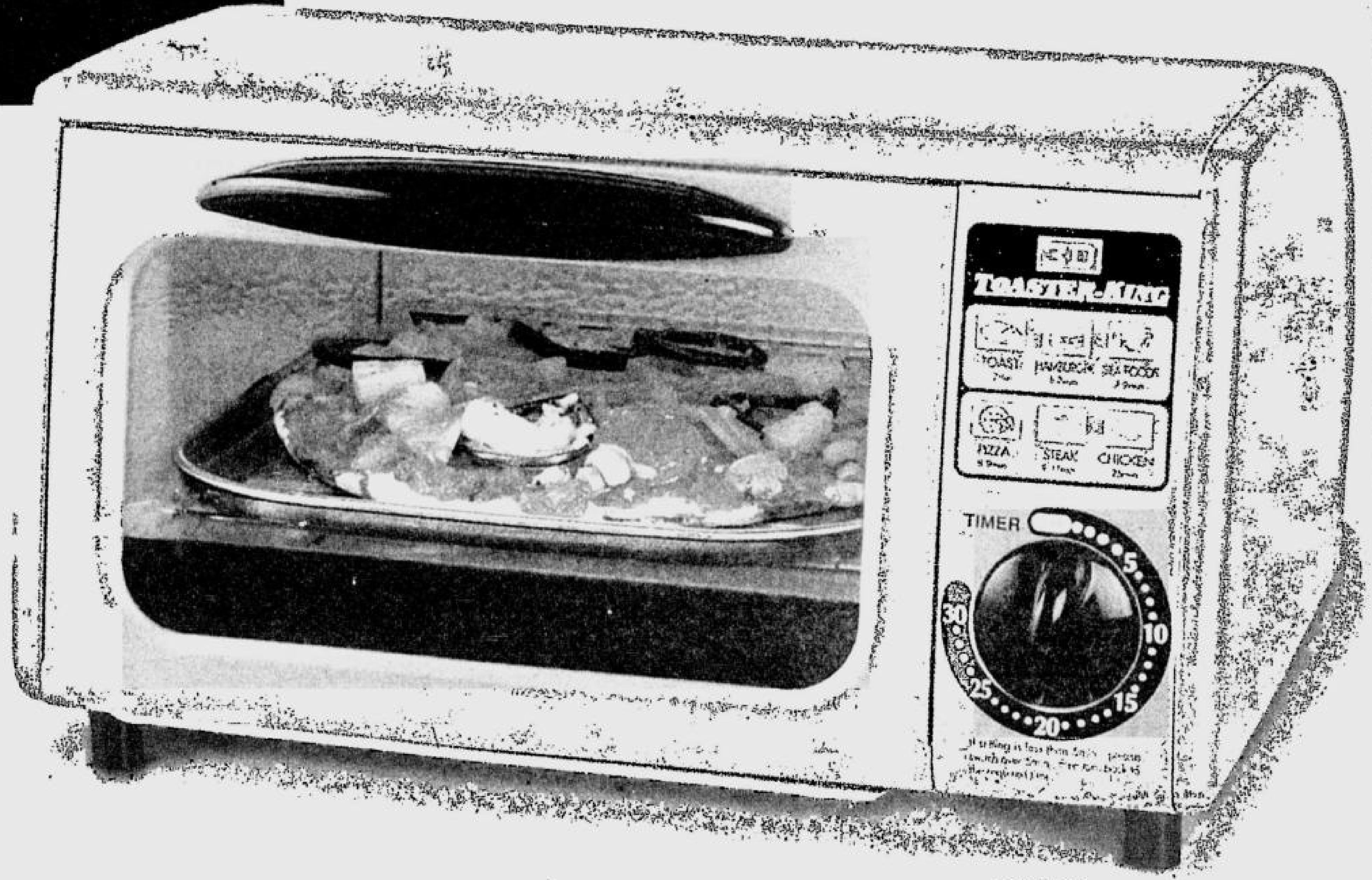

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7 in family charged with murder of 2 A16

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Parolee shot dead by drug suspects A16

Metro garbage being dumped in 'secret' place, Binay admits

MMDA chair appeals for sobriety

BINAY

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

METRO Manila's garbage is being taken to a temporary dumpsite near Semirara Island in Antique while the 20-day temporary restraining order issued by the Antique regional trial court is in effect.

This was revealed yesterday by Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Jejomar Binay, who appealed for sobriety and cooperation from residents as the garbage crisis takes its toll in the metropolis.

Binay declined to reveal the temporary site, saying it was "secret," but said it is an area near Semirara.

Sources believed the temporary dumpsite is near Siquijor Island. Another source said the site is actually a small area still part of Semirara Island.

Binay said the garbage unloaded in the temporary dump would be transferred to Semirara upon the expiration of the TRO on Jan. 18.

He said the MMDA has begun "looking at other places aside from Semirara" because of stiff opposition from Antique residents and environmentalists. He did not name the alternative sites.

"We should be helping each other and this is not the time to heap blame on anybody," Binay said in a forum at Ciudad Fernandina yesterday.

"Hopefully this will be resolved in 5 to 10 days or maybe even less," he said.

An official of R-II builders, which along with DMCI Holdings holds the contract for the P1.4-billion Semirara landfill project, warned that open dumpsites could sprout all over Metro Manila if the crisis was not resolved soon.

Pat Yuson, R-II vice president, said a number of mayors in Metro Manila have allowed open dumping and open burning in their areas, and were resorting to "guerilla tactics" to dump trash elsewhere after the sanitary landfill in San Mateo, Rizal was closed.

"Imagine," Yuson said, "if all the mayors are doing that, you'll have a thousand open dumpsites in Metro Manila."

Binay said some cities and municipalities have been allowed by the Quezon City government to temporarily dump their trash in Payatas.

Binay said the color-coded garbage segregation scheme, which the MMDA implemented unsuccessfully last year, might be revived to resolve the crisis.

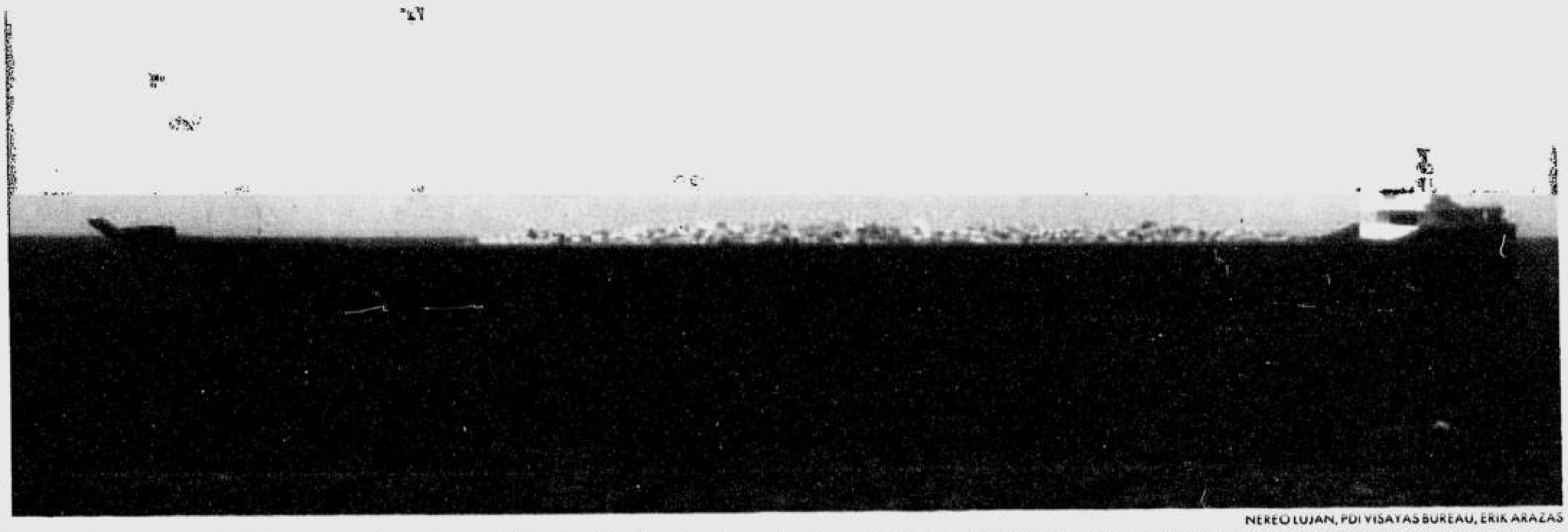
The scheme required all households and businesses to sort biodegradable and non-biodegradable trash and put these in specific colored plastic bags, which shall then be collected on certain days.

Biodegradable materials like kitchen waste and paper shall be taken to local composting sites while plastics and bottles will be taken to recycling plants.

"This problem can be solved if all of us would cooperate and help each other," Binay said.

He said there would not have

METRO/A16



NEREO LUJAN, PDI VISAYAS BUREAU, ERIK ARAZAS

WHILE the barges wait in Antique waters for a chance to dump their load on Semirara Island, uncollected trash is burned in Makati City, filling the air with smoke and stench (top).

QC jailhouse band singer sings his last

DIMAYUGA

By TJ Burgonio

EVEN in death, Efren Dimayuga may not find his place in rock and roll heaven. But he would be remembered, if at all, for the No Bail Band, a prison band made up of inmates, whose haunting anti-death penalty song "Hiram Na Buhay," was released in 1999.

Dimayuga, the jail band's vocalist, Sunday morning was found unconscious, apparently from a stroke, inside his cell at the Quezon City jail.

He was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center, where he died 12 hours later.

Dimayuga is survived by his wife, Marlene, also a prisoner, and daughter Bujay. But it is doubtful if his band would survive his death.

Dimayuga until his death was one of the band's three remaining members after their vocalist and rhythm guitarist Rene Zafran was released from prison following his acquittal of murder charges in a local court.

On Dec. 26, this writer interviewed Dimayuga, who did not show any sign that death was only around the corner. He felt optimistic about the band's future even after Zafran was released.

He even dismissed speculations that the band would be breaking up.

"We'll continue to play," he chuckled.

He said replacing Zafran would be no problem. There would always be musically inclined inmates who would take his place, he said. He also talked about new compositions the band was ready to record for a new album this year.

Two days before Dimayuga died, he called up this writer and asked when he would read the story in this paper.

"I've been buying INQUIRER every day but the story hasn't come out yet," he said in an animated voice. "When is it going to come out?"

Unfortunately, Dimayuga's deadline on life came sooner than the deadline for this story.

Even if no fans or groupies would mourn the passing of this band singer, the inmates he entertained would sorely miss him.

The band regaled them with a repertoire that covered folk, pop, reggae and jazz during their in-prison performances.

With two other inmates, Dimayuga formed the band in 1997 to fight boredom and entertain the more than 1,000 inmates of the Quezon City jail.

The No Bail Band found a cult following outside prison after it was featured by the media. Shortly after the media exposure came offers from various record companies.

In January 1998, the band signed up with Alpha Recording Corp. and recorded their first album, "Hiram Na Buhay," which was also the carrier single.

The song questioned the wisdom of capital punishment. Its popularity may be attributed to the controversy of the death penalty, the execution of convicted child-rapist Leo Echagaray, the first Filipino to be executed after the death penalty was re-imposed, and the ensuing protests against capital punishment of pro-life activists.

But fame for the band was short-lived. After only a couple of appearances in TV variety shows to promote their album, the band faded into oblivion.

The band, however, continued to hold gigs inside the prison. They had their first mini-concert with Grace Nono during the prison bureau's National Correctional and Consciousness Week on Oct. 26, 2000.

It was the band's last performance with Dimayuga.

"Although he was a member of the Sputnik, he was well-loved by members of the Commando, Batang City Jail and the Bahala na Gang because of his music," Boy Roxas, president of the inmates' association Kapitbisig 2000 Inc., said of Dimayuga.

When two original members, drummer-guitarist Pablo Estacio Jr. and bandleader Cenen Quiambao, were transferred to the national penitentiary in 1998 and 1999 after conviction by local courts, Dimayuga became the virtual bandleader.

He scouted for new talents and rebuilt the band around them. With him gone now, it's doubtful if the remaining members—drummer Arnel Rance and a new recruit, guitarist Rodney Jaronel—would have the zest to look for replacements and continue playing.

If only someone could bail out the No Bail Band.

Malaya advertising exec shot dead outside QC bar

By Philip C. Tubeza

AN ADVERTISING account executive of the Malaya and Sunstar publications dared a man to shoot him outside a Quezon City bar before dawn yesterday. The gunman obliged.

"Do you really have the guts to kill? Go ahead and shoot me," a witness quoted Gaynor L. Sorsogon, 51, as telling one of three unidentified men.

The man pulled out a cal. 45 pistol and shot Sorsogon in the face.

Sorsogon, of Christaville Subdivision, Bayabas Avenue, Talon, Las Piñas, died outside the J&L Videoke Bar at the corner of Kamuning Road and T. Gener Street in Quezon City, said investigator SPO1 Cresencio Bajao.

Sorsogon and three companions—a man and two guest relations officers—were about to leave the bar when they got into an argument with three unidentified men, aged 30-35, about 12:45 a.m. yesterday, police said.

Sorsogon and his companions were about to get into their car when one of the three unidentified men allegedly fired two shots in the air.

"(Sorsogon), who was already drunk, confronted the gunman and asked him what it was all about," SPO1 Bajao said.

But the gunman said it was nothing and so Sorsogon left with his companions.

But 20 minutes later, Sorsogon came back to the bar with three other men. That was when Sorsogon was shot and killed, police said.

"The suspects must have thought Sorsogon and his companions were going to get back at them," Bajao said.

The gunman and the two other men fled on a single motorcycle, he added.

Investigators are trying to get a description of the suspects from Sorsogon's companions.

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Cowboy Grill, Novaliches Quezon City	SAINTS FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎453.4329
[illegible], Yale St. cor Aurora, Cubao	ALTERED GLADYS C D' BOXERS	P50 ENTRANCE FEE ☎913.7202
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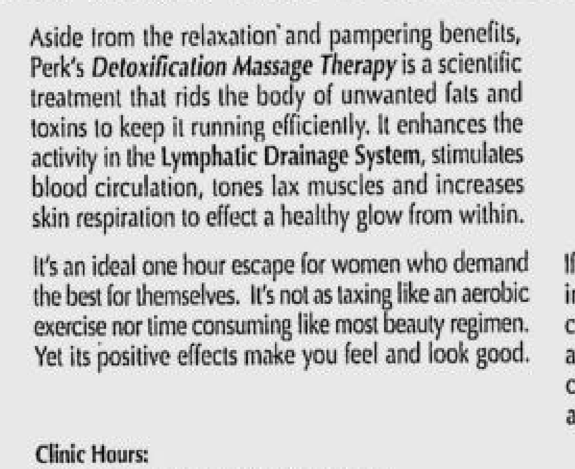

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7 in family charged with murder of 2

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE yesterday filed criminal charges against seven family members accused of killing two men early this week.

Three of the accused, Eliseo Laude Sr., 59, and Arnel, 21, and Lamberto Samonte, 54, all residents of Katarungan Street, Muron, Malabon, are detained at the Malabon police headquarters.

The other suspects, all members of the Laude family, are still at large. They were identified as Eliseo Jr., Elmer, Edgardo and Felizardo.

The charges against them were filed before the Malabon Prosecutor's Office.

Malabon assistant prosecutor Severina Acuña recommended a P200,000-bail for the temporary release of Eliseo Jr., who is also facing attempted murder charges.

On Monday at about 11 a.m., a rumble broke out between the Laude and the Santos families on Katarungan Street, PO2 Jorge de la Cruz said in his report.

Police said Ramil Santos, 21, went to a friend's house where he chanced upon Elmer Laude. Ramil and Elmer engaged in a fistfight after Elmer allegedly gave Santos a dagger look, investigators added.

Authorities learned that the Santos and Laude families have a long-running feud.

Minutes later, Ramil's relatives went to the scene purportedly to break up the fight, but were met by the Laude family, police said.

In an affidavit, Ramil's mother Rita told police she saw Eliseo Sr. handing over a .38-cal. revolver to his son Eliseo Jr., who then shot her husband Conrado, 50, and another son Ruel, 22.

Suspects Eliseo Sr., Elmer, Edgardo and Felizardo Laude, and Arnel and Lamberto Samonte then took turns in beating up Ramil with lead pipes, Rita added.

Conrado Santos and his son Ruel died while undergoing treatment at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center. Ramil sustained multiple injuries all over the body.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

LOCKUP LESSON

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza lectures 78 people who were arrested for littering in different parts of the city. He said the Metro Manila-wide garbage situation is already bad without thoughtless people making it worse.

Stabbed, strangled

POLICE yesterday morning found the blood-drenched body of a taxi driver who was stabbed and strangled to death in Valenzuela City.

Dominador Ciro, 40, driver of Baslig Taxi and resident of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, was found at about 6:45 a.m. inside his cab (TVN 245) in San Agustin Village, Barangay Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela.

Ciro bore six stab wounds in the chest and the neck and a wire was looped around his neck, according to members of the Valenzuela Police Scene of the Crime Operatives.

Ciro's white shirt and denim pants were blood-soaked when the driver was found dead in the driver's seat, witnesses told police.

Insp. Salvador dela Cruz of the Station Investigation Bureau said the taxi driver might have tried to fight off at least three attackers.

Recovered from Ciro's shirt pocket was P860 in cash, also bloodstained, witnesses said.

When the body was being carried out of the cab, blood was still dripping from the stab wounds, indicating that Ciro was killed just a few hours earlier, police said.

A representative of Baslig Taxi, which is owned by Ligaya Uy, told police that Ciro reported for work on Monday but failed to return the following day.

The driver's body was sent to the Valenzuela Funeral Homes for autopsy.

Christian V. Esguerra

Another woman floats

THE BODY of an unidentified woman yesterday morning was found floating in an *estero* near a pumping station in Quiapo, Manila.

Chief. Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the Western Police District homicide section, said the woman was between 30 and 35 years old, medium-built, about 5-foot-5 tall, barefoot, short-haired, and wearing a black long-sleeved blouse with "Luvis" printed on the left part of the chest, maroon bra, black pants and black panties.

A length of wire was looped around the woman's neck, indicating she was strangled, police said. Investigators said the woman had been in the water for about six hours when she was found.

Police theorized that the woman, whose body bore no sign of rape, might have been a drug courier killed by members of a drug syndicate operating in the Quiapo area.

Residents spotted the body floating in Estero de San Miguel near the pumping station on Rawata Street at about 6 a.m. The pumping station is operated by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Jerome Aning

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, January 11, 2001
1st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Heb 3:7-14
Gospel: Mk 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and begged him, "If you so will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." The leprosy left the man at once and he was made clean. As Jesus sent the man away, he sternly warned him, "Don't tell anyone about this, but go and show yourself to the priest and for the cleansing bring the offering ordered by Moses; in this way you will make your declaration."

However, as soon as the man went out, he began spreading the news everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter any town. But even though he stayed in the rural areas, people came to him from everywhere.

Commentary:

Here we meet two persons of solitude: Jesus and the leper. The leper was alone because he was an outcast, rejected by society on account of his disease. Jesus was alone because he wanted to rest and pray. His was a happy and empowering form of solitude. The leper's, on the other hand was a lonely solitude, like those of the "lonely people" John Lennon sang about in his song about Eleanor Rigby in the '70s. Perhaps we can call the leper's presence in the wilderness a solitude of isolation and that of Jesus a solitude of communion. They are two forms of solitude in the same wilderness. It is however only the latter that can cure the former.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

Man robbed with his pants down

AFTER sex with an alleged prostitute, Jelo N. Sta. Maria found he paid more than what he bargained for.

Sta. Maria, 28, claimed he lost P6,000 to the woman while they were having sex inside a Quezon City apartelle. He said she fled after taking the money, and he could not run after her: He was naked.

Worse, the woman stole the money even before he could finish having sex with her, Sta. Maria said.

A despondent Sta. Maria, of Lot 10 Block 14, AFP Housing, Zone 1, Buliban in Silang, Cavite, yesterday morning told Kamuning police that he went to the Act Cinema in Cubao, Quezon City about 4 a.m. and hired the services of a woman.

The woman agreed to have sex with him for P500, Sta. Maria said. They then proceeded to Confiado Apartelle, he told SPO4 Edmund Senido, Kamuning police station desk officer.

But while they were at it, Sta. Maria said, the woman reached for the money inside the right pocket of his pants. He said she excused herself and told her she had to go to the toilet.

But before he knew it, the woman, who was partially dressed, had rushed out of the room with his money, Sta. Maria said.

Philip C. Tubeza

Namria exec reinstated

A TOP official of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) has been ordered reinstated by President Estrada following his illegal termination last year.

Ordered reinstated with full payment of back wages and other benefits was Salvador V. Bonnevie, director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey of Namria.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey undertakes the hydrographic survey of the country's territorial waters in conjunction with the provisions of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) and in determining the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

In his memorandum, President Estrada ordered Namria Administrator Isidro S. Fajardo to immediately reinstate Bonnevie.

Prior to his reportedly illegal termination, Bonnevie was instrumental in the construction and printing of Charts 4723 and 4800 covering the controversial Kalayaan Island Group and the entire country.

LRT management should help blast victims

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE EVIDENCE and testimony so far presented by the prosecution panel in the impeachment trial show that President Erap has lost the moral authority to govern.

To the ordinary citizens who are closely following the proceedings, Erap is as guilty as hell. Even if some testimony, like that of Clarissa Ocampo's, is stricken off the record because it is immaterial or irrelevant in the opinion to the court.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), hit the nail on the head when he said: "As a layperson regarding the interpretation of legal evidence, I would not know if legally speaking the evidence is enough. But from a layperson's point of view, the evidence is overwhelming."

***

Many people say Mr. Estrada will be acquitted because there is not enough hard evidence against him, evidence acceptable to the impeachment court.

Unless the senators who act as judges and jurors in the trial are courting the ire of the people, they had better think a hundred times before giving a not guilty verdict.

The President is not only on trial here. Also on trial are the senator-judges.

***

The impeachment court is unlike an ordinary court trying an ordinary criminal for an ordinary crime.

The crimes that Erap is accused of are not ordinary crimes although he acts and talks like the neighborhood *istambay* or *kanto* boy despite his high position. The offenses imputed to the President—graft and corruption, bribery, betrayal of public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution—are high crimes that would deprive him of his office.

If Erap had been an ordinary government employee, an administrative case would have been filed against him. The impeachment is an administrative case against the President.

In an administrative case, hard evidence need not be presented against an accused, unlike in a criminal case. The accused government official or employee can be found guilty based on serious doubts cast on his integrity.

***

Former President Ramos is right: If the military has set high standards of morality for even lowly privates and corporals, why can't the same standards be applied on the President, the Armed Forces of the Philippines' commander in chief?

Mr. Estrada's integrity and morality are on trial. It's now public perception that he is corrupt and immoral.

Following Mr. Ramos' line of thinking, why can't Erap be dismissed when his lowly subordinates in the military who are found to be immoral or corrupt lose their jobs?

***

Why can't the management of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) help the victims of the Rizal Day bomb explosion at the Blumentritt station in Sta. Cruz, Manila?

Victims or their relatives have been seeking financial help from the media for their funeral or medical expenses. And yet, the LRT management seems blind to their plea.

The LRT management should shoulder the expenses of the victims because it was negligent in insuring their safety.

I wonder if LRT administration officials would have been as callous as they are now if some of their relatives were among the victims.

***

What happened to the promise of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to the bomb blast victims and their relatives that the city government would help defray their hospitalization and medical expenses?

I heard Atienza make the pledge over a radio station hours after the bombings.

***Tumupad ka naman ng pangako mo*, Mayor!**

***

Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay did not make any promise of financial help to the victims of bomb explosion aboard an Edsan bus in Cubao.

But he paid the funeral expenses of Apolinario Lorenzo, a 32-year-old laborer from Nueva Ecija. The mayor issued a personal check to the Prudential Funeral Homes to release the body to the victim's relatives. The relatives were too poor to claim the body.

Mathay also bought a coffin for the victim and hired a vehicle to take the body to his hometown.

All these the Quezon City mayor did after "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" made representations with him because the victim's relatives sought my help.

***

Speaking of Mathay, his son Chuck leads in the survey in the race for Quezon City mayor. The elder Mathay cannot run for reelection because it's his third term.

According to a reputable survey firm, as of Dec. 11, 2000, Chuck got 33 percent of the respondents, Rep. Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte, 30 percent, and actor Rudy Fernandez, 28 percent.

The rest of the respondents were undecided.

A political analyst told me the emotional drama that took place on a TV show involving Chuck and actress Ara Mina was responsible for Mathay's high ratings.

Chuck admitted during the live interview in the presence of the actress that she was his love child.

Belmonte and Fernandez should come up with emotional dramas of their own to offset Chuck Mathay's lead.

Parolee shot dead by drug suspects

By Philip C. Tubeza

RENE P. Lamsang, a member of Bahala Na Gang who was out on parole, wanted to turn a new leaf and leave a Quezon City drug syndicate.

But the syndicate would not let him. When he insisted, suspected members of the syndicate, which allegedly included a Quezon City policeman, ganged up on Lamsang and executed him before dawn yesterday.

Lamsang, 34, of Lumot Street, Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City, was said to have known too much about the gang's activities and so gang member Danilo Deudor, alias Totoy Taling, of Araneta Avenue, also in Barangay Tatalon, shot him to death yesterday, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda.

Police said Deudor was allegedly with his nephew PO3 Delfin Deudor of the Galas police station and fellow syndicate members identified only as Jet-jet, Bong, Elmer, and Roy when Lamsang was executed.

Lamsang's live-in lover Erlinda Cortez said Jet-jet and two men fetched her and Lamsang from their home at 1:20 a.m. yesterday.

Lamsang, who allegedly worked as a drug courier for the group, allegedly wanted to talk with the older Deudor so that he could finally cut his ties with the syndicate, which is said to distribute illegal drugs in Barangay Tatalon.

Police said the suspects brought the couple to Deudor's house, where Lamsang tried to tell him that he wanted out.

But Deudor allegedly got angry when Lamsang would not consider staying on with the syndicate, police said.

Deudor surprised everybody when he pulled out a handgun of unknown caliber and pointed it at Lamsang, who ran out of the house with Cortez.

But the suspects followed the couple until they cornered them on Araneta Avenue, police said.

Lamsang and Cortez pleaded with the suspects to spare Lamsang's life, but Deudor shot him in the chest.

Deudor and his companions fled in different directions as Cortez was left with Lamsang, who was bleeding on the sidewalk.

Lamsang was declared dead on arrival at the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center about 2:45 p.m.

PO3 Deudor denied he was present during Lamsang's killing. He said he was sleeping at the time of the incident. He said he was tired after a whole day of practice as a member of the police Civil Disturbance Unit on Tuesday.

Supt. Reynato Valebia, Galas police station head, surrendered Deudor to the investigators.

"Tell them the truth, Erlinda," Deudor told Cortez during a confrontation in Camp Karingal. "I have children."

But Cortez stuck to her testimony involving the policeman in her lover's death.

"You were with them," she cried. "You killed him without mercy."

Deudor said he heard reports that Lamsang was involved in drugs but he denied that his uncle was involved.

ERIK ARAZAS

MORE trash is burned on C-5 Road.

Metro garbage . . .

(From page A15)

been a garbage problem if lawmakers did not ban all kinds of incineration under the Clean Air Act.

But the militant group Pamalakaya blamed Binay, President Estrada and Roberto Aventajado, presidential adviser on flagship projects, for creating the garbage mess.

Officials of DMCI Holdings and RII Builders assured the public of the viability and ecological sustainability of the sanitary landfill on Semirara Island.

Edmond Sese, RII Builders vice chair, assured Antique residents they need not fear pollution fallout in their area once the landfill becomes operational.

Sese also promised the people that the firm would strictly comply with environmental safeguards to prevent ecological disturbance.

"The government has awarded us this contract in view of the viability of our proposals to solve the garbage crisis the soonest time possible without sacrificing the welfare of the environment," said Sid Consunji, president of DMCI Holdings.

Consunji said that instead of facing the problem head-on, people tend to find faults in what he claims is a proven solution to the garbage crisis.

The officials explained that the project passed rigid pre-qualification and inspection procedures set by the Greater Metropolitan Manila Solid Waste Development Committee and the MMDA.

They said the Environmental Management Plan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources already granted the necessary operating permit after thorough evaluation.

Unlike the open dumpsites in Payatas, Quezon City and San Mateo, Rizal, they claimed that the Semirara sanitary landfill would not pollute the land, air and water of surrounding areas even if operations lasted for years.

They said the sanitary landfill at the Panian Mine, which is operated by the Semirara Coal Corp., has been scientifically engineered.

The stink raised by the plan to dump garbage on Semirara also led tour operators to join the fray and protest the dumping.

The Network of Independent Travel Agencies (Nitas) is afraid that garbage from Metro Manila may wash up on the world-famous white-sand resort island of Boracay, about 60 kilometers from Semirara and about 280 kilometers south of Manila.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
2	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	TANGING YAMAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	KANGKONG
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

SM CENTERPOINT 7149822 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KANGKONG
3	DTS	SPIRIT WARRIORS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	KANGKONG
5	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	GATAS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	DEATH ROW
3	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	LOST SOULS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MEET THE PARENTS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	KANGKONG

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	MEET THE PARENTS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
4	DTS	ART MOVIE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KANGKONG
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
7	DTS	DEATH ROW
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SP[IRIT WARRIORS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LETS GO TAMIYA
2	ULTRA SURROUND	KANGKONG
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
9	ULTRA SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
10	ULTRA SURROUND	DEATH ROW

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CRACKER JACK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	KANGKONG
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	LOST SOULS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EX-CON
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BOYS & GIRLS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DEATH ROW
2	ULTRA SURROUND	EX- CON
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BLAIR WITCH 2
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGO NG TONDO
8	ULTRA SURROUND	LOST SOULS

SM PAMPANGA 7120015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MEET THE PARENTS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

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- 2 EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
- 3 GATAS
- 4 KANGKONG

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

- 1 EMPERORS NEW GROOVE — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 2 THE 6TH DAY — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 3 THE 6TH DAY THX — In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
- 4 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (Phil. Premiere) Art Film — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
- 5 SPIRIT WARRIORS — In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 6 MEET THE PARENTS — In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
- 7 TANGING YAMAN — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

- 1 MEET THE PARENTS — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
- 2 THE 6TH DAY — In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
- 3 BALAHIBONG PUSA — In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
- 4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

- 1 THE 6TH DAY THX — In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
- 2 THE 6TH DAY — In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
- 3 MEET THE PARENTS — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
- 4 EMPERORS NEW GROOVE — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
- 5 BALAHIBONG PUSA — In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	THE 6TH DAY
2 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
3 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
4 GOLD (DTS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TANGING YAMAN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SPIRIT WARRIORS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
8 [illegible]	KANGKONG
9 [illegible]	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10 [illegible]	GATAS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	GATAS
2	KANGKONG
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX I-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
2 (DTS)	DEATH ROW
3	MEET THE PARENTS

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	KANGKONG

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	GATAS
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
5	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	KANGKONG
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	TANGING YAMAN
5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
6	THE 6TH DAY
7	SPIRIT WARRIORS
8	GATAS

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1	TATLONG PUSO ISANG PANGARAP
2	HOT SPOT
3	LABAN KUNG LABAN
4	
5	WATCH 3 MOVIES FOR ONLY ₱30.00
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Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

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3	FIRST STRIKE
4	WHO AM I (Jacky Chan Festival)

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	PING LACSON STORY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	KANGKONG
2	GATAS
3	THE 6TH DAY

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
A	KANGKONG

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	GATAS
3	KANGKONG

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	DEATH ROW
4	GATAS
5	TANGING YAMAN
6	KANGKONG
7 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
8 (SDDS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
9 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG
4	GATAS
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	GATAS
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	TANGING YAMAN
4 (SDDS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	KANGKONG
6 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
7 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
8	PING LACSON STORY
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
2	GATAS
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS
5 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7 (DOLBY)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
8	KANGKONG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
2	MEET THE PARENTS
3 (DTS)	GATAS
4	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
6 (DOLBY)	TANGING YAMAN
7 (DOLBY)	KANGKONG

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

HOT SPOT

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KANGKONG
2	BALAHIBONG PUSO
3	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4	THE 6TH DAY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	KANGKONG

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4	GATAS
5	KANGKONG

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	GATAS
4	THE 6TH DAY
5	PING LACSON STORY
6	DEATH ROW

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	THE 6TH DAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS)	TANGING YAMAN
3 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
4	KANGKONG

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG
4 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
4	GATAS
5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	TANGING YAMAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	GATAS
3	TANGING YAMAN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	GATAS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	DEATH ROW
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	TANGING YAMAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG
4	GATAS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS)	KANGKONG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	BALAHIONG PUSA
3	THE 6TH DAY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	GATAS
3	UNBREAKABLE
4	THE 6TH DAY

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	KANGKONG
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	TANGING YAMAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE 6TH DAY
2	TANGING YAMAN
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 (DTS EX)	MEET THE PARENTS

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FASHION ANGELS
BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

FASHION ANGELS
BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 734-5012

a special presentation

Side A Band at Conway's

CONWAY'S Bar, the trendy night haunt at Makati Shangri-La, the country's premier band, Side A.

Join Joey Generoso, Joey Benin, Ernie Severino, Kelly Badon and Naldy Gonzales tonight and on Jan. 18 as they serenade you with sure-fire hits from their latest album, as well as the favorites that have made Side A one of the most popular bands in the local music scene.

For primetime entertainment, variety is the name of the game at Conway's. Mondays are retro nights with Real Groove dishing out '70s music from legends like the Stylistics, The Supremes, Sergio Mendes and more.

Tuesdays feature the rock 'n' roll and dance tunes of Spirit of '67, except on the Jan. 23, when Civil Eyes perform in a special show.

Sway to the R&B beat of Toy Symphony on Wednesdays. Spirit of '67 steps back into the limelight with a special performance on Jan. 25.

Weekends are no less exciting with performances from Recados and R.O.B on Fridays and Big Nite Out on Saturdays.

Capping the entertainment line-up is the jazz fusion and country folk sound of Spirit A.D. on Sundays.

For inquiries, call Makati Shangri-La at 813-8888.

Concert for the environment

AFTER the success of his Araneta Coliseum concert "Radical" Gary Valenciano performs in "Gary V Live," a concert for the environment, 6 p.m. tomorrow, Jan. 12, at the Miriam College Grounds in Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

The concert, presented by Miriam-Public Education and Awareness Campaign for the Environment (Miriam-Peace), in cooperation with the Earthwatch Club (for eco-friendly teens), will feature other artists like The Manoevres, Powerplay Band and Canto Boys, with special performances from the Palawan-based band, Ungsod and Sayawatha.

Musical director of the show is Mon Faustino.

For tickets, call the Environmental Education Center at 920-5093.

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ERMITA 536-7609-14

1. THE 6TH DAY
2. TANGING YAMAN
3. BALAHIBONG PUSA
4. KANGKONG
5. GATAS
6. PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
7. MEET THE PARENTS

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1. THE 6TH DAY
2. GATAS
3. TANGING YAMAN
4. PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
5. KANGKONG
6. BALAHIBONG PUSA

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. THE 6TH DAY
2. TANGING YAMAN
3. BLAIR WITCH 2
4. DEATH ROW
5. MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
6. SUGATANG PUSO

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TANGING YAMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	GATAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEET THE PARENTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SPIRIT WARRIORS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	GATAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	PING LACSON STORY
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	BALAHIBONG PUSA
MIRAMAR	KANGKONG
ODEON	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ODEON-2	KANGKONG
ROBEN	KANGKONG
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	WHAT LIES BENEATH / ANACONDA 2000
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SA IYO ANG SARAP SA IYO ANG LIGAYA
ACT-2	ARAYY
ACT-3	HIRAM NA KATAWAN
ACT-4	BIRADOR
CORONET-2	GET CARTER / SEX BOMB
QUEZON-1	KANGKONG
REMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA
REMAR-2	KANGKONG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MARKOVA COMFORT GAY
OCEAN CINEMA-A	LARO SA BAGA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	GUEVARRA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KANGKONG
CINEMA-2	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-3	DEATH ROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-8	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
CINEMA-12	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-14	GATAS
CINEMA-15	TANGING YAMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-3	THE 6TH DAY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-2	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
CINEMA-3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-4	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-6	MEET THE PARENTS

LOUIE'S CINEMA

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Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Joyce goes sexy–and sweet

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IS **JOYCE Jimenez** really "going sweet and wholesome"? Show biz observers note that the sexy star is about to topbill a TV sitcom with **Aga Muhlach**, and take that a sign that she is going to keep her clothes on from here on in.

Well, I don't know about that—and neither does Joyce! Other sexpots (**Rosanna Roces, Rufa Mae Quinto, Ara Mina**) have starred in TV shows and continued to do sexy movies. So, why should Joyce be required to do differently?

True enough, Joyce says she has no plans to stop daring and baring on the movie screen. In her latest starrer, "Balahibong Pusa," Joyce engages in the regulation number of passionate and semi-nude scenes.

It is noticeable that Joyce's (sexy) scenes in her new movie are less erotic and graphic than some of her past starrers, but they're still sexy, nonetheless.

Joyce is looking forward to her sitcom because it costars her with the popular Aga, a pairing that will boost her stock in show business and "legitimize" her image, from "just" a sexpot to a more versatile personality. This can help her gain a wider following beyond sex bombs' usual fan base of macho oglers.

While "Balahibong Pusa" topbills Joyce, it also presents **Rica Peralejo** in her first "really daring" exposure onscreen. Rica went sexy in "Ex-Con," but only to the extent of engaging in torrid kissing scenes.

In the version of "Balahibong Pusa" we've seen, she has some breast exposure. Clearly, she's out to out-sizzle Joyce to get other producers to cast her in her own sexy solo starrers.

But, is Rica ready to go as far as Joyce has done in some of her films? Only time and her subsequent movies will tell, but Rica's exposure in "Balahibong Pusa" indicates that she has decided not to be shy about sharing at least some of her "assets" with the ogling public.

'The Hunted Bear'

AT 8 tonight on the National Geographic Channel, see how a couple takes care of two four-month-old cubs that were orphaned after a hunt, in "The Hunted Bear." It's perfectly legal in Russia to hunt bears, and some people pay up to $2,500 for the "thrill" of shooting a Russian bear.

Even though hunters are supposed to avoid shooting bears with cubs, many young bears are still orphaned each year. Orphaned cubs often die soon after their mothers' death, but some get lucky.

Biologist **Valentin Pazhitnov** and his wife **Svetlana** devote their lives to caring for orphan cubs. At one time a professional hunter paid by the state to kill brown bears, Valentin has developed a passion for saving the species instead.

His bear orphanage does what was once thought to be impossible: reintroduce young bears into the wild even after they've had extensive contact with human beings.

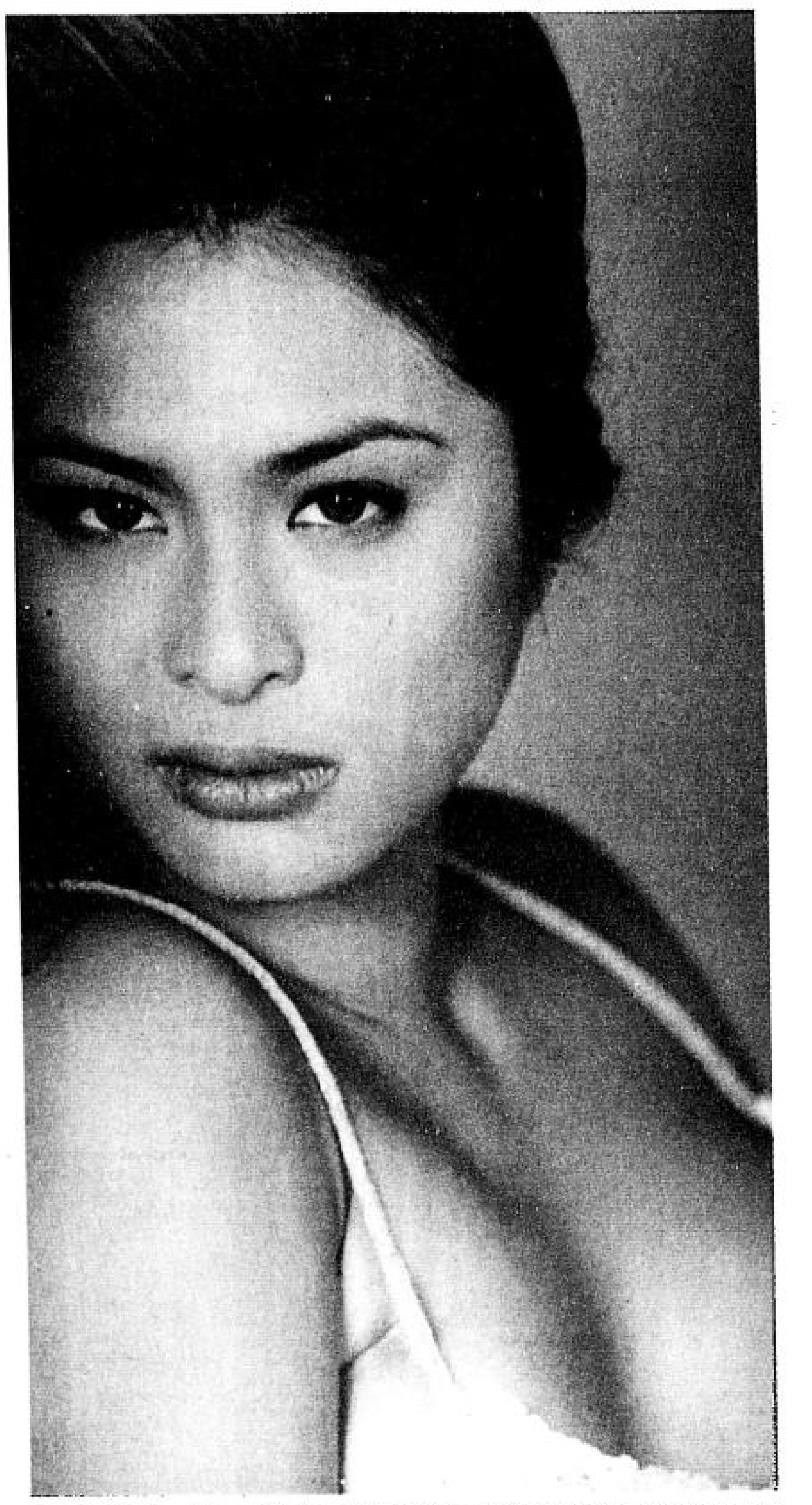
New season on Star World

EVERY Sunday at 10 p.m., the legend continues on the fourth season of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" (replays on Mondays at 1:30 a.m.).

Catch "Happy Days" on weekdays at 4:30 p.m. Much of the humor of this sitcom revolves around the experiences of teenagers growing up in the 1950s.

Opening on Jan. 16 (Tuesdays at 8 p.m.) is "Jag," an explosive drama. Follow Lieutenant **"Harm" Rabb Jr. (David James Elliot)**, a lawyer for the Judge Advocate General Corps (J.A.G.), on his mission to investigate and prosecute all crimes, accidents, and acts of terrorism and espionage related to the US Navy and Marine Corps.

Finally, join the funny gang of "Mork and Mindy" on its third season on Star World (weekdays at 4 p.m.) beginning Jan. 18. The show launched **Robin Williams** to stardom decades ago.



JIMENEZ. A pairing with Aga Muhlach in a sitcom will boost her stock in show biz.

Carmina, Zoren seen entering ER in LA hospital

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

A CLOSE friend of mine who lives in Los Angeles mentioned that he spotted **Carmina Villaroel**, **Zoren Legaspi** and his brother **Jupiter** entering the emergency room of a hospital in LA on Jan. 2. My friend, however, was also in a rush and was not able to get details.

But if reports in Manila are to be believed, then Mina and Zoren could be preparing for their date with the stork.

The baby would be the first show biz baby of the year 2001.

Unmanageable manager

DURING the holidays, stars were fully booked for out-of-town shows. Naturally, the talent managers would always try to get a fair deal for the stars. But what if a manager has unreasonable demands?

During a fiesta that I attended, the hosts were ticked off at a singer's manager because she was asking too much. It wasn't the talent fee that was the problem but the additional requirements of the overbearing manager.

The hosts were gracious and accommodating, and Ms Manager apparently took advantage of their kindness. They gave in to her every whim but she really went overboard.

As the organizers put it, "*Talo pa niya ang alaga niya sa dami ng hinihingi niya. Hindi naman siya ang* star *ng* show."

The sad truth about some managers is that they are harder to deal with than the stars themselves.

The Professional Artists Managers Inc. (PAMI) should include this in their agenda.

Toni's trip

MANY avid followers of the **Antoinette Taus-Dingdong Dantes** love team were disheartened to hear that Antoinette is going to migrate to the United States with her family.

How could she leave now that her career is in such a promising stage? Can't she stay behind and just visit her family in the US from time to time? Is she leaving because of the worsening political scenario?

So many questions were e-mailed to me about Toni's sudden departure. Some malicious wags even went to the extent of speculating that she might be pregnant and was running away to avoid any scandal. That's kind of far-fetched but fans usually jump to conclusion.

News about newscaster

SOMETIMES the lives of newscasters are even more colorful than the news stories they cover. But since they're not really show biz personalities, newscasters are spared from public scrutiny while stars must learn to live with intrigues as an occupational hazard.

I got wind of this juicy info about a pretty newscaster who we no longer see on our TV screens. According to my well-placed source, Ms Newscaster used to date a certain public official who's known for making passes at young and pretty reporters. They didn't have a serious thing going but unfortunately Ms Newscaster got pregnant and had to make a disappearing act.

Viewers hardly noticed her absence, though, because the network promptly replaced her with another pretty face.

CARMINA: Is the new year's first baby/babies hers?

Top 10 requests

BASED on the mail I've been getting, here are some of the things readers want to see in show biz this year. Take a hint, producers.

1. A **Martin-Pops** concert.
2. The complete love story of **Aga** and **Charlene** played by by the lovers themselves.
3. A **Richard Gomez-Regine Velasquez** movie.
4. A sitcom starring **Cesar Montano** and **Sunshine Cruz.**
5. A telemovie about the ongoing impeachment trial that will include what goes on after the daily hearings.
6. A solo movie for **Diether Ocampo.**
7. A permanent mate for **Kris Aquino.**
8. A **Sharon Cuneta/Regine Velasquez** back-to-back concert.
9. A regular TV show for **Leo Valdez** and **Lea Salonga.**
10. A talk show for **Edu Manzano.**

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

Fab Four's 27 No. 1 hits all in 1 album

BEATLE fans, rejoice!

The Fab Four's 27 No. 1 singles in the British and US charts are together in one album for the very first time. The album, "The Beatles—1," was released in November and is distributed in the Philippines by Octoarts EMI Music.

The Beatles had 17 No. 1 hits on UK charts between May 1963 and July 1969, with "From Me to You" and "Hello, Goodbye" staying the highest number of weeks—seven—at the top.

In the US, the group had 21 No. 1 singles between February 1964 and June 1970, with "Hey Jude" ruling the charts for nine weeks.

The UK hits stayed a total of 69 weeks in the charts, while the US hits spent 59 weeks in the hit list, or an overall total of 128 weeks.

"The Beatles—1" runs a total of 79 minutes but goes for the price of a regular album. So far, it has topped album charts in 30 countries and has been certified platinum more than 100 times, according to EMI Recorded Music.

"The incredible success of this album shows that The Beatles are as contemporary today as they have always been," said EMI Recorded Music president Ken Barry. "The 27 No. 1 hits on the album, which changed the world when they were first released, are still as fresh and vibrant as the day they were first recorded."

"This is probably the most awaited Beatles release," said Jojo Bacasmas, Octoarts EMI Music strategic marketing manager for international.

Adventure opens renovated cinemas

THE NEWLY renovated Greenbelt cinemas in Ayala Center formally reopen, after almost a year of technical improvements, with an invitational gala screening of Columbia Pictures' mountaineering thriller "Vertical Limit" today, Jan. 11.

An action-adventure feature starring Chris O'Donnell, "Vertical Limit" is the tale of young climber Peter Garrett (O'Donnell), who must launch a treacherous and extraordinary rescue effort up K2, the world's second highest peak.

On Jan. 18, Greenbelt will show Warner Bros.' controversial romantic thriller-drama "Proof of Life" starring real-life lovers Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe. It tells the story of a hostage negotiator who falls in love with the wife of the kidnap victim he's trying to rescue.

All three cinemas in Greenbelt are equipped with state-of-the-art digital sound. All three will sell tickets on guaranteed-seats basis.

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THE 6TH DAY 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40	MEET THE PARENTS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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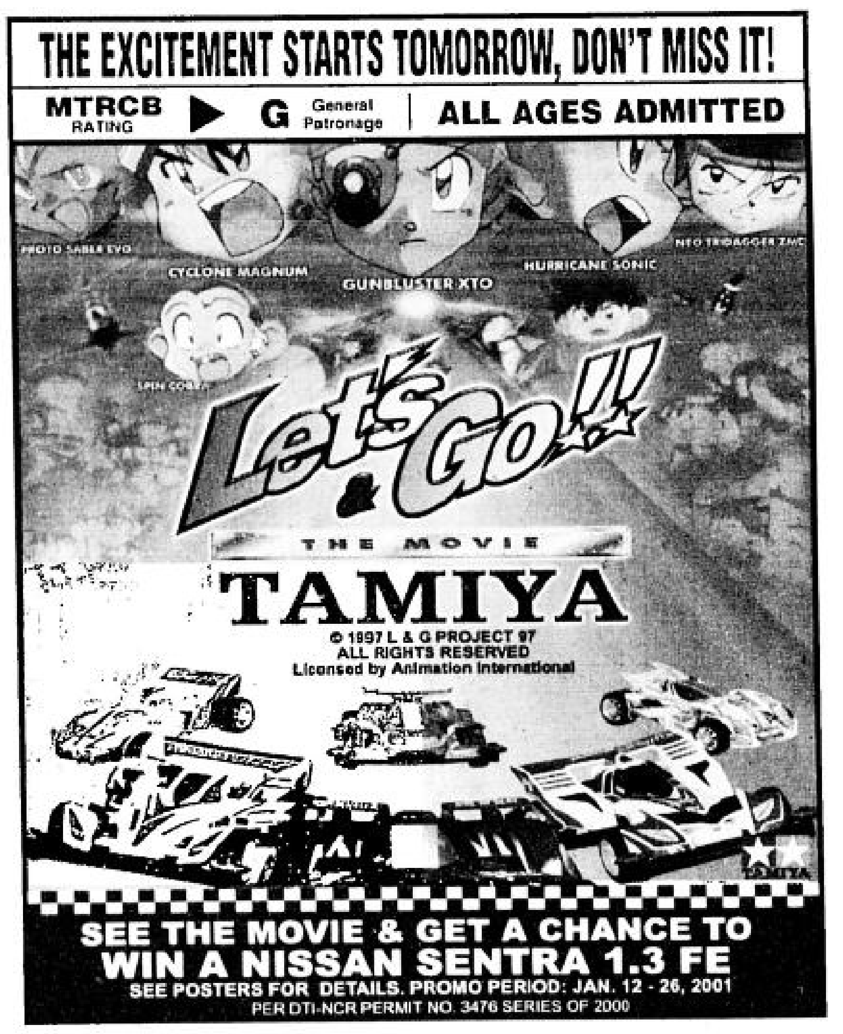

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Bangko Sentral eyes further rate cut

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday the bank would consider a possible reduction of 50 to 100 basis points in its overnight rates during the bank's policy meeting today.

Asked if the Monetary Board was going to cut overnight rates this week, Buenaventura said: "I think there is a good chance but we will take into consideration other factors like exchange rate and other currencies and the reserve money."

Buenaventura added any rate cut would "generally (be) between 50 to 100 basis points" to keep pace with falling US rates.

"Clearly there's room for a rate cut," Buenaventura told reporters. "We don't want the spread between US rates and our rates to be too large because we don't want to attract hot money."

The bank lowered its overnight rates by 50 basis points effective on Monday. The overnight borrowing rate is now at 13 percent and the lending rate at 15.25 percent.

The US Federal Reserve cut rates a half-point to 6 percent last week to help shore up a slowing economy, and the Philippine central bank followed with a half-point reduction. Policymakers want to further narrow the gap between local and foreign interest rates to avoid attracting short-term portfolio investments, blamed for excessive swings in the peso's exchange rate.

The central bank is steadily bringing rates down to counter a four-point increase in October to stem a decline in the peso. Cheaper credit is needed to spur corporate investment and help spur growth in one of Asia's worst-performing economies.

The bank has cut key rates two percentage points since December.

Meantime, the negative impact of the "Juetengate" scandal on the local currency has already doubled to P4 per $1 from a little over P2 when the controversy involving the highest official of the land erupted in October last year.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas noted that four months ago, the political crisis that led to a waning confidence in the Estrada administration had caused the local currency to trade P2 lower than what the exchange rate should have been.

Yesterday, Buenaventura said the weight of the political turmoil on the local currency was already about P4 for every greenback.

"The peso is undervalued now and we are paying a premium of P3 to P4 against the baht for perceived political instability," the central bank governor said.

Traders and analysts said the sore performance of the peso compared to other currencies was due to the prolonged impeachment trial as well as a general feeling of uncertainty among businessmen and investors that no clear resolution of the crisis was at hand.

The peso maintains an average differential of P3.50 to P4 against the Thai baht "under a normal situation."

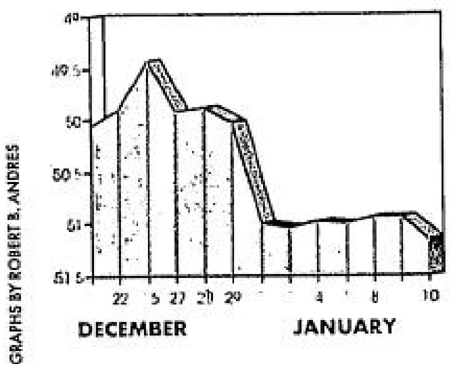
The Thai baht currently trades at around 43 to $1 while the peso continues to fluctuate at the 51-52 to $1 level. During the first trading day of the year last Jan. 2, the peso hit

BANGKO/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

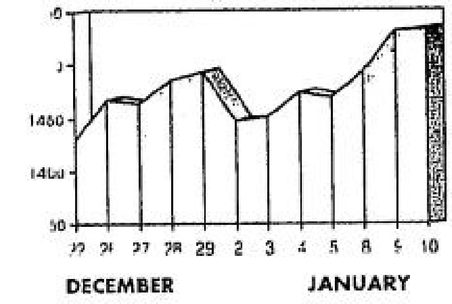
P51.15 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 10, 2001

¥116.52 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 116.52 as of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 10, 2001

GOLD:$266.80/267.30
per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 10, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end firm

SHARES ended a shade higher yesterday as profit-taking shaved off some of the market's gains in the last two sessions.

But traders said there were some signs of an upbeat mood in the market following the cut in overnight rates and a rollback in oil prices.

The 33-share composite index inched up 2.33 points, or 0.15 percent, to close at 1,534.15 points, the highest in four months.

But the broader All Shares Index lost 20.10 points, or 2.54 percent, to 772.27, showing that trades were generally mixed.

Losers outpaced gainers, 35 to 28, with 45 issues unchanged. Turnover jumped to P959.59 million from Tuesday's P681.51 million.

Reuters

NEA loan faces forfeiture

AT LEAST $11.7 million in foreign concessional loan is in danger of being forfeited because of the National Electrification Administration's continued inaction on the woodpoles and crossbars component of the Rural Electrification Project.

The amount represents the lowest bid for the supply of woodpoles and crossbars submitted by Nerwin Industries, a local contractor backed by a Malaysian supplier.

The major components of the Rural Electrification Program are funded by a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) under the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

The JBIC has served notice that should the delivery of the woodpoles and crossbars to the project site miss the October 2001 deadline, funding will be withdrawn.

The bid was held on Feb. 16 last year and was won by Nerwin over three other pre-qualified bidders with the lowest tender at $11.7 million. Between Nerwin and the second lowest bidder, the price difference amounts to $1.47 million for the poles and close to half a million dollars for the crossbars.

The NEA Prequalifications, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) recommended to then NEA administrator Conrad Estrella III that Nerwin be awarded the project. Estrella, who has since resigned to run for Congress in Pangasinan, endorsed the recommendation to the NEA board.

However, the board, chaired by Energy Secretary Mario Tiaoqui, has refused to award the project.

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1.6 GSi A/T	115,995	12,995	15,995	16,995	17,995
1.6 Ghia M/T	125,995	13,995	16,995	17,995	18,995
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And now the Ed is near

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

BEFORE the flu fell me a couple of days ago, I thought of writing about the appointment of Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara as executive secretary and not as piano pedal. And definitely I was not thinking of his new sideline as semi-official punching bag of the administration of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

Politicos, as you know, already put a lot of meaning into the appointment. Bad meaning! Thus, I found myself wondering if I should still comment about how, for instance, Angara's appointment could help my chronic allergy to snake venom.

Gut-feel told me, on condition of anonymity, that Angara would not give a hoot about my allergy. Even without looking at it as factum probadum, pro tempore or requiem in pacem, I realized Angara was having some dies rara sisbumba.

Give him a break, forgodsakes! The man is not even a week into his job. Sworn into office last Saturday, he was judged as doomed by Monday. Look, given the whole weekend, after all that time, the useless Angara still had not repaid the national debt. What kind of an executive secretary is that, anyway?

* * *

TO GIVE themselves a semblance of fairness, of course, politicos must say some good things about the very person whom they are destroying. Of course to them Angara is a good man. He is also simply amazing. Most probably, he is even circumcised, etc. You know, such words are often used for posterior kissing.

The good that is said of the poor Ed Angara, my fellow Romans, is immediately followed by trash-talk. No way could this new "little president" save the administration! Angara may be terrific, in other words, but he is not terrific enough.

Is that so? So why then were his enemies reacting as if "saving the administration" was precisely what they feared Angara would do? They and only they, in the first place, thought of Angara as savior. In the Wrist Band camp, for all you know, they probably look at his new appointment simply as filling up a vacant position.

Angara was already in the Cabinet. It's not as if his mother just asked him to buy a cup of vinegar and he ended up in Malacañang. Angara was agriculture secretary and Wrist Band's main program is food security. Well, plus having a horrible public image.

* * *

ANYWAY, it's just that today, Ed is nearer to the source of a lot of power in this country—the presidency. Like it or not, the power still belongs to Wrist Band. Like all the executive secretaries before him, Angara can only help Wrist Band use it properly.

All right, granted, Ed may beat hands down all the executive secretaries since the time of Tita Cory in terms of good looks. Sure, Ed is a lot nicer to behold than, say, his predecessor. So what's wrong with that? At least Ed looks more like the CEO that his boss Wrist Band does not.

For that, to many in business, is one big setback of the Wrist Band administration. Unlike Kuya Eddie before him, Wrist Band is not a President for the CEOs. Wrist Band, therefore, suffers in his international projection. Meaning, he can hardly talk turkey with big business people. He can only talk dirty. Oops! Delete!

Maybe that's one difference which Ed can make for the administration. Before he joined the government as UP president in the early 1980s, he already made his pile as a hotshot corporate lawyer. He has connections in big business. Vice versa.

* * *

IF ED succeeds in putting a bit more statesmanship in the administration, maybe I can worry less about my allergy. Maybe that can help prevent the fondest wish of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who insists that the economy had collapsed and we all already died yesterday, unless she would become the president immediately please.

In the Department of Agriculture, you see, Ed already showed he could work together with big business. One case was the rampant smuggling of chicken legs from the United States, which was threatening the local poultry industry with double murder.

The story was recounted to me by Rene Montemayor, the youngish president of Purefoods, which is an Ayala firm. The company is only the biggest food processor in the country. It's so big, it's about to overtake some former USSR countries. Anyway, Montemayor told me Angara prevented the murder by putting a stop to the smuggling.

So what did Angara do? No, Shiano, he did not shoot all the smugglers. Angara simply lobbied with US lawmakers whose areas sell a lot of corn to the local poultry industry. If the business here dies, we would have no more use for the US corn.

Angara was a little wily there, of course, in the sense that he tried to fit one US industry against another, but I thought that's how the business world goes around. It's all competition. Believe me, business is willing to face competition. Well, FAIR competition. And every CEO who does not look like Wrist Band knows that!

Tariff increases may violate RP commitments to WTO

. C. CABACUNGAN JR.

ONOMIC Coordinating Council is wary ng moves in Congress to raise tariff walls legislation because these adjustments nd to possible breaches in the Philip ommitment to the World Trade Organi-

. ECC, chaired by Finance Secretary Jose do, has adopted a policy mandating that titions for tariff adjustments should be through the Cabinet-level Tariff and

ource said the ECC felt that the TRM route best way of ensuring that all affected industries would have the chance to air their support or opposition to these adjustments and ensure that these changes would conform to the country's commitments to the WTO.

The ECC policy decision was triggered by the filing of House Bill No. 12577 entitled "An Act Amending the Tariff Rates on Various Tariff Headings Under Section 104 of the Tariff Customs Code of the Philippines."

The source said the ECC was particularly worried of any legislated tariff changes because these could not be amended by an executive order except through legislation. This is why that it prefers that tariff be made flexible by being approved through executive fiat instead of legislation.

The House bill has been approved on third reading and the Senate is reportedly coming up with a counterpart bill. The House bill proposes tariff hikes on firearms and ammunition; towels, petrochemicals; chemicals; plastics; boilers; cassava; ceramics; automotive batteries; consumer electronics and allied industries; oleochemicals; palm oil; pulp and paper; rubber; wood; refractories; glass; aluminum; packaging products; beer; tires; textiles; tin cans; flour sacks and bags; and lamps.

If approved, these tariff increases would run counter to the recent decision of the TRM to maintain duties of most products in 2000 to this year.

US firm hails gov't drive vs fake goods

ONE of the world's biggest manufacturing companies has lauded efforts by the Philippine government to curb local counterfeiting of internationally renowned brands.

The US-based Caterpillar Inc. said pronouncements and actions by the government could significantly help restore the sagging image of the country in the international business community.

The Department of Justice recently said it was putting a stop to the rampant violation of laws pertaining to the protection of intellectual property rights to protect both brand owners and consumers.

DOJ officials said rampant brand piracy in the country was hurting both the country's goodwill and image and prejudiced consumers who might be paying premium prices for what they believed were original products.

The National Bureau of Investigation has also launched massive raids against outlets retailing suspected counterfeit products.

Smart seeks 25-year mobile phone license

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

SMART Communications Inc. has asked the National Telecommunications Commission for a 25-year license to operate a mobile phone service following the expiration of its provisional authority in November last year.

Smart legal affairs head Rogelio V. Quevedo said the company's provisional authority was automatically extended until the NTC decides whether to grant Smart's petition.

"The PA is good for only 18 months. Since we have been in the business for some years now, we have applied for a CPCN (certificate of public convenience and necessity), which is for 25 years," said Quevedo.

The official said Smart was confident it could get an extension to its PA or a 25-year CPCN because the company has been able to serve an increasing number of subscribers over the years. Smart's subscriber base has so far exceeded two million.

Santiago said the NTC still had to evaluate Smart's application. Some of the considerations would be the fixed-line telephone rollout obligation of the company as well as its cellular phone coverage nationwide. He said the company "has certain numbers to meet."

Smart's major rival in the cellular phone business, Globe Telecom, has also been seeking an extension of its provisional authority which expired in September last year.

Meantime, the NTC said it would ask Smart and Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. to appear before the commission next week to resolve their interconnection dispute.

Santiago yesterday said calling the officials of the two companies might help them settle their differences.

He said he would call Nextel president Antonio Urera and Smart legal head Rogelio Quevedo for the meeting.

Mutual funds post sharp decline in asset values

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE SLOWDOWN in the local exchange, which emerged as the worst performing in Asia last year, dragged down the portfolio performance of Philippine mutual funds.

As the blue chip-laden Philippine Stock Exchange composite index tumbled 30.26 percent last year, most mutual funds saw sharp declines in their net asset values, except for those which were devoted to fixed income instruments.

"Unless one stuck himself up with Manulife Financial Corp. (which rose 222 percent in 2000) and Sunlife Financial Services of Canada (which rose 271 percent) shares, the year 2000 had been a difficult year for making money in equities," brokerage house Securities 2000 said in a recent report.

"A scan of the country's mutual funds, managed by professional fund managers, last year revealed a declining trend in the values of most funds' portfolios." it said.

Mutual funds that were devoted to fixed income found their net asset value rising by an average of 6.44 percent while those of mutual funds investing in equities declined by an average 16.92 percent.

Among the biggest losers were: United Fund, whose net asset value dropped by 32.68 percent to P1; Philam Fund, 26.32 percent to P3.27; GSIS Kinabukasan Fund, 25.84 percent to P1.06, MFCP Kabuhayan Fund, 24.07 percent to P0.60; Abacus Growth Fund, 20.20 percent to P0.99;

Filipino Fund, 18.12 percent to P0.86; Citisec Growth and Income Fund, 17.14 percent to P1.48; Philam Strategic Growth Fund, 14.99 percent to P119.3; All Asia Fund, 11.78 percent to P1.04; SLC Prosperity Phil. Equity Fund, 9.33 percent to P0.91, and SLC Prosperity Balanced Fund, 2.46 percent to P0.99.

The top gainers were: All Asia Fixed Income Fund whose net asset value rose by 9.3 percent to P1.46; Philam Bond Fund, 8.79 percent to P1.43; Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund, 8.56 percent to P125.87; and, Far East Fund, Inc., 7.44 percent to P1.12;

Philequity Fund, 6.43 percent to P3.79; SLC Prosperity Bond Fund, 6.26 percent to P1.07; First Galleon Family Fund, 3.53 percent to P0.63, and ECC Growth and Income Fund, 1.22 percent to P1.16.

"We can only hope for a promising 2001 as we enter the year with optimism that political reforms will soon be over," Sec2000 said.

The brokerage house said the year 2001 had a volatile start as domestic and global events conspired to spark wild market swings in both equity and currency markets.

DISCLOSURES

THE PHILIPINE Stock Exchange has accredited **Asian Appraisal Co. Inc., Cuervo Appraisers Inc., General Appraisal Co. (Philippines) Inc.** and **Philippine Appraisal Co. Inc.** as property appraisers of listed companies and perspective applicants.

* * *

THE REDUCTION of 45,500 Philippine Depository Receipts of **ABS-CBN Holdings Corp** . shall take effect today, bringing the total number of the holding firm's listed PDRs to 267,834,300.

* * *

DMCI Holdings Inc. has announced that it will not release further details of the Metro Manila Development Authority's interim integrated waste management project until circumstances surrounding it become stable. The project is facing social acceptability and legal constraints.

* * *

EEI Corp. will hold a special stockholders meeting on Feb. 1, 2001, 10 a.m., at Club Filipino, McKinley corner Eisenhower streets, Greenhills, San Juan. Stockholders of record as of Dec. 30, 2000 are entitled to vote in this meeting.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Philippine Bank of Communications** has appointed Angel Cruz as executive vice president-treasurer and head of treasury of the Bank effective Jan. 2, 2001.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

Bangko . . .

(From page B1)

an intra-day historic low of P52 to $1 but eventually settled at P51. The peso yesterday closed at 51.15 to $1.

Some traders were anticipating that the peso could dip further to 60 to $1 if the political problems persisted. Buenaventura, however, dismissed such a scenario.

"The peso could go down further and its decline would largely depend on how the market perceives the conduct of the impeachment trial," a trader from a medium-sized bank said.

Allegations that Mr. Estrada had received more than P400 million in "jueteng" payoffs and kickbacks from tobacco taxes had pulled down the peso to a historic closing low of 51.48 to $1 on Oct. 30.

"The continued slump only confirms our belief that investors are avoiding if not pulling out their investments from the Philippines," said Astro del Castillo, head analyst at AA Securities. *Reuters, Bloomberg*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, January 10, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	8.00	8	8	8	92,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	60.00	60.5	59	59	100,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	58.00	58	55	57	38,000
First E-Bank Corp.	2.00	2	2	2	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	192.0	193	190	190	83,810
Union Bank of the Phil.	33.00	34	32.5	34	15,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.56	1.6	136,000
First Abacus Financial	.6500	.65	.65	.65	150,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	.3500	.35	.35	.35	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1345	1345	1275	1280	4,110
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.20	1.2	1.2	1.2	124,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1170	1170	1110	1110	21,200
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	50.50	50.5	50	50	28,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.4700	.49	.47	.47	1,090,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700.0	700	700	700	800
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0460	.046	.045	.045	2,700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.4400	.45	.44	.45	350,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	4.00	4	4	4	10,000
Piltel	.6000	.6	.56	.56	70,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	.3300	.33	.33	.33	120,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	890.0	900	890	900	366,500
Ivantage Corp.	.9000	.9	.88	.88	100,000
Philweb.com Inc.	.0350	.036	.034	.035	115,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	48.00	49	48	49	159,500
Manila Electric Co. "B"	52.00	54	52	54	3,037,400
Petron Corp.	1.32	1.38	1.3	1.32	9,276,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9800	.98	.98	.98	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l SV	.8300	.84	.8	.8	2,060,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	.4700	.47	.38	.4	600,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.4000	.41	.4	.4	420,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.1	2.04	2.1	26,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.20	2.24	2.2	2.24	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10	237,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.50	31.5	31	31.5	208,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.56	1.62	1.56	1.62	51,000
RFM Corp.	1.00	1	1	1	10,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	49.50	50.5	49.5	50	189,300
San Miguel Corp. "B"	55.50	55.5	55	55.5	129,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.40	4.4	4.4	4.4	18,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.60	7.6	7.4	7.6	1,978,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.40	1.4	1.38	1.38	306,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.50	12	11.25	11.75	2,900
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	.8200	.83	.79	.81	160,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.2700	.28	.25	.27	34,450,000
ARC Group Inc.	.1800	.18	.18	.18	2,400,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.30	2.3	2.3	2.3	80,000
Bacnotan Cons. Indus. Inc.	12.00	12.25	12	12.25	3,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.10	3.35	3.1	3.35	12,408,000
Basic Consolidated Inc	.1600	.16	.16	.16	50,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.3000	.34	.3	.33	7,730,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp	.7500	.75	.73	.74	610,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	22.00	22.5	21.75	22	194,300
Global Equities Inc	.3600	.36	.36	.36	110,000
Ionics Inc.	15.00	15	14.5	14.5	72,300
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.16	2.1	2.1	343,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings "B"	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.20	2.2	2.2	2.2	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	.8100	.82	.79	.8	3,290,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.6000	.6	.59	.59	23,320,000
Solid Gr. up Inc.	.4800	.54	.47	.47	4,590,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.3400	.34	.32	.34	7,280,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	.3200	.33	.3	.31	1,170,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.40	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.20	6.4	6.2	6.4	27,000
Music Corp	3.05	3.05	2.9	2.9	315,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.1050	.105	.105	.105	400,000
SPI Technologies Inc	7.80	7.8	7.8	7.8	540,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.6900	.7	.69	.7	1,320,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.7600	.77	.73	.77	1,260,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp	.4300	.43	.42	.42	460,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	51.00	51	50.5	50.5	697,900
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	311,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	570.0	570	565	565	190
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.20	3.2	2.9	2.95	80,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	690.0	690	690	690	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	10.00	10	9.8	9.8	103,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0028	.0028	.0028	.0028	78,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	11.00	11	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	11	10.25	11	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	11.00	11	10.25	10.25	4,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	11	10.25	11	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	11.00	11	11	11	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	11.00	11	11	11	4,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series "Aa"	9.60	9.6	9.6	9.6	4,000
Waterfront Phils.-Warrant	.0750	.075	.075	.075	300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.80	5.9	5.6	5.8	6,845,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	.3400	.36	.32	.33	520,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.2100	.22	.2	.21	4,950,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.3600	.36	.33	.34	5,590,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.4	1.42	7,861,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1.00	1	1	1	200,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.1500	.15	.15	.15	900,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.3700	.37	.36	.36	200,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	.1350	.145	.135	.145	3,170,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	.1600	.16	.16	.16	80,000
SM Development Corp.	.8500	.88	.85	.85	2,090,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.10	6.4	6.1	6.1	25,300,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	.0900	.115	.09	.095	4,700,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "A"	.1900	.19	.19	.19	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "B"	.1950	.195	.195	.195	250,000
Omico Corp.	.0038	.0038	.0038	.0038	7,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0210	.021	.021	.021	500,000
Interport Res. "B"	.0050	.005	.005	.005	1,000,000
Pacifica	.0160	.016	.016	.016	1,200,000
Sinophil Corp.	.0900	.09	.09	.09	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	.1900	.19	.19	.19	550,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	845,620	55,076,600.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	321,365,690	692,417,620.00
PRO	62,406,000	214,353,580.00
Mining	7,350,000	94,350.00
OIL	4,250,000	229,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	396,237,310	962,171,350.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	557.69	DOWN 6.73
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,146.03	UP11.41
PRO	536.97	DOWN 5.70
Mining	1,223.92	DOWN 7.91
OIL	1.79	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	772.27	DOWN20.10
Composite	1,534.15	UP2.33

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 35; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 108; NO. OF TRADES: 3,841

CURRENCIES

Jan. 10, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.057641	1.000000	50.9020
Japan	Yen	0.009056	0.008562	0.4358
United Kingdom	Pound	1.575357	1.489500	75.8185
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.135602	0.128212	6.5262
Switzerland	Franc	0.656268	0.620501	31.5847
Canada	Dollar	0.708400	0.669792	34.0938
Singapore	Dollar	0.610295	0.577034	29.3722
Australia	Dollar	0.594916	0.562493	28.6320
Bahrain	Dinar	2.805564	2.652661	135.0258
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.281985	0.266617	13.5713
Brunei	Dollar	0.610789	0.577501	29.3960
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000105	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.024545	0.023207	1.1813
UAE	Dirham	0.287966	0.272272	13.8592
Korea	Won	0.000845	0.000799	0.0407
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.945500	48.1278
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.483426	24.6074
France	Franc	0.152450	0.144141	7.3371
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.429049	21.8395
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.068712	3.4976
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023438	1.1930
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000488	0.0248
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.159022	8.0945
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004716	0.2401
Spain	Peseta	0.005989	0.005663	0.2883
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.023438	1.1930
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.200537	61.1097

Calling a US recession not as simple as it seems

WASHINGTON—Just because the top two economists at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. say the US economy is in recession doesn't necessarily make it so.

"Yesterday, Morgan Stanley jumped in the water, and now all the penguins are jumping in too," Northern Trust Corp.'s Paul Kasriel said. "I'm not denying there's weakness, I just don't think this is the one."

Who's right? No one knows or will know for a while—perhaps even a year. Around the world, a recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of declines in gross domestic product. Yet, that definition doesn't count among US academic or business economists, who defer to the National Bureau of Economic Research, a non-profit group in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

NBER has a business cycle dating committee, whose six members gather whenever they think they have to decide that the economy has changed direction. The committee doesn't announce when it meets so as not to confirm the public's worst fears.

It uses no checklist to decide the issue and specifically says it doesn't use the two-quarter rule. Its only guide, as outlined on its website, is that "a recession is a recurring period of decline in total output, income, employment and trade, usually lasting from six months to a year."

Why such a vague definition? "The whole point to having a committee is precisely because there is judgment involved," said committee member Ben Friedman, an economics professor at Harvard University. "If not, you could have a computer do it."

Morgan Stanley's chief US economist, Richard Berner, said he used his gut in announcing Tuesday—with colleague Stephen Roach—that the economy's record expansion had come to an end.

"There's no apparition that appears in front of you in a dream, like the Ghost of Christmas Past in clinking chains," Berner said. "You diligently ply your trade, screw up your courage and make the call."

He said the judgment also followed review of several weeks of discouraging economic news. In December, the commerce department reported that orders for capital goods, excluding defense or transportation—a gauge of business investment—fell in November for the second straight month. Detroit automakers have scaled back production plans for this year by 20 percent. Construction material companies report that retailers such as Home Depot Inc. and Lowe's Cos. have reduced orders.

"You look at the overall picture and add it up and that's where I come up with the call," he said.

That call contributed to a third straight daily decline in stocks Tuesday as investors worried Berner and Roach might be right.

Bloomberg

After yen decline, Japan insurers forecast gains

TOKYO—Japanese life insurers are forecasting a yen rally this year at a time when the currency is tumbling and others are predicting the decline is far from over.

Nippon Life Insurance Co. and its rivals say slowing US economic growth means they probably will not profit from a falling yen when converting returns on overseas investments. Last year, they did as the yen fell 10 percent against the dollar.

Life insurers, who control 181.5 trillion yen ($1.57 trillion) of assets, are instead trimming their overseas investments, providing support for the currency. Though the yen began 2001 with a 2.3-percent tumble versus the dollar, traders and corporations may find the contrarian stand by insurers a signal to buy.

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Asian Airlines face slower cargo growth

TOKYO—Singapore Airlines Ltd., Japan Airlines Co. and other carriers serving Asia face slowing air freight growth this year as a cooling US economy cuts shipments of electronics and other goods, airlines and analysts say.

Singapore Air and JAL, two of the region's three biggest cargo carriers, both saw the amount of available cargo space used slip more than 2 percent on year in November. A drop in Singaporean electronics exports was one reason for SIA's fall while JAL blamed the drop on less demand for semiconductors.

"Air cargo is an early indication of trends in the economy," said Martin Schlingensiepen, vice president for Southeast Asia, Australia and the Indian subcontinent of Lufthansa Cargo AG. "There's going to be more and more capacity in some markets, like Hong Kong, which may create overcapacity."

Cargo freight rates tend to be more sensitive to demand changes than passenger fares, so any falloff in shipments could soon start squeezing profit. While passenger demand is holding up better than cargo, any slowdown in economic growth in Asia will also sap travel for business and pleasure, analysts say.

"The pivotal question is whether the impact on earnings of slower US and Asian growth will be offset by falling fuel prices," said Mark Webb, an analyst at HSBC Securities in Hong Kong, in a report. "Our conclusion is negative—the benefits of lower fuel prices will not offset slowing traffic growth."

Webb cut his recommendations for three out of 10 Asian airlines in the HSBC portfolio, Singapore Air, Cathay Pacific Airways and China National Aviation Co., which operates Hong Kong Dragon Airlines Ltd.

Bloomberg

TWA approves bankruptcy

ST. LOUIS—Trans World Airlines Inc. has approved a plan to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and has agreed to be bought by American Airlines parent AMR Corp. in a $3.5-billion transaction, the Wall Street Journal has reported, citing people familiar with the transaction.

The second largest US airline is expected to pay $500 million, including $300 million in cash, and assume $3 billion in aircraft leases as part of the plan, the Journal has reported.

American's purchase of the No. 8 US carrier would give it about a quarter of the US market and put it at par with United Airlines parent UAL Corp. after its purchase of US Airways Group Inc. To appease regulators' objections to the pending UAL-US Airways combination, American also plans to buy about 20 percent of US Airways' assets and 49 percent of the startup carrier, people familiar with the plan have told Bloomberg News.

"We are still not commenting on any of the news reports swirling about us," said American spokesman John Hotard. TWA spokeswoman Julia Bishop-Cross declined to comment.

The purchase would add TWA's St. Louis hub to American's existing hubs at Dallas-Fort Worth, Chicago and Miami, and would strengthen its secondary hub at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Perhaps more importantly, it allows American to cheaply purchase assets and routes that will keep it competitive with a combined UAL-US Airways, analysts say.

Bloomberg

HP ships fast Unix server

PALO ALTO, California—Hewlett-Packard Co. has begun worldwide shipments of its HP 9000 Superdome server.

Unveiled in September, the high-end Unix server is the world's most powerful, flexible and available Unix computing platform and is the only system that combines complete partitioning capabilities with comprehensive "beyond the box" services, support and utility-like pricing options.

HP also announced initial benchmark performance results, including the world's highest assembly-to-order standard application benchmark, measuring the real-world demands of a typical supply-chain management environment and an outstanding TPC-C benchmark used to indicate online transaction processing speed.

"Today, as promised, HP is meeting commitments to our customers with both outstanding performance and on-time shipments," said Mark Hudson, worldwide marketing manager for HP business systems and technology operation. "HP customers get both the HP 9000 Superdome server's next-generation technology and comprehensive services, and can take immediate advantage of the outstanding performance it provides. And these performance levels are only the beginning. Customers will reap Superdome's benefits for years to come."

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of CLARITA PAGE H. CARIN who died intestate in Cebu City on May 11, 1996 has been the subject of deed of extrajudiciatl settlement of her heirs and entered as Doc. No. 438, Page No. 69, Book No. 3, Series of 2000 of Notary Public Atty. Oscar Maria H. Tan, Jr. (PDI, Dec. 28, 2000 Jan 4, & 11, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of ROGELIO HERMOSO who died intestate in Cebu City on September 10,1999 has been the subject of a deed of extrajudicial settlement of his heirs and entered as Doc. No. 439, Page No. 69, Book No. 3, Series of 2000 of Notary Public Atty. Oscar Maria H. Tan Jr. (PDI - Dec. 30, 2000, Jan 4. & 11,2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Certificate of Residence Issued to Pre-Arranged Employee No. 02302063 has been lost, Who ever finds the lost document, please return the same to the holder:
FR.CARL CHUDY,SX
Xaverian Missionaries Blk.32 Lt.16 Lily Street Maligaya Park Subdivision, Novaliches, QC 4165641 9267736/xmipacific.net.ph or to the Commissioner, Department of Justice BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND DEPORTATION Mla. Phil.- Jan. 3 & 11, 2001

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

OBITUARY

LUISA IRINEO ENRIQUEZ

of Lemery, Batangas and Quezon City

Joined the company of her Creator on January 10, 2001

Her bereaved husband **Clarito**; sons **M. Joebert** and **Joselito**; daughter-in-law **Arlyn**; grandchildren **Jyn, Joebert II, Jye** and **Jyo**; brothers **Ramon, Felicito, Sr.** (†), **Idilio, Leopoldo** and **Tet-Tet Irineo, Nanding Felipe** and **Arturo Mendoza**; sisters **Gloria, Baby, Nanie, Nena, Minda** and **Aurora**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to Lemery, Batangas on Friday, January 12, 2001 at 9:00 AM.

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In the shadow of death may we not look back
to the past, but seek in utter darkness
the dawn of God.
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin S.J.

ESTELA G. DE ABELLA

(1910 - 2001)

Died peacefully in God's Grace on January 8, 2001.

Her loving children **Angie** and **Pete Garriz**, **Drs. Chona** and **Peny Reloza**, **Maryanne** and **Fil Alfonso**, **Stella**, and **Jerry**; her grandchildren and great grandchildren request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Divine Child La Salle Greenhills Chapel. (Entrance through gate 2 on Ortigas Avenue).

Interment will take place at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque, on Saturday, January 13, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. after the 8:30 a.m Mass at La Salle Greenhills.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to Cartwheel Foundation (an educational foundation for underprivileged children) would be appreciated.

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawn on man what God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Cor. 2:9

Our Dearly Beloved

Romeo A. Bonifacio

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on January 9, 2001 at the age of 75.

His loving wife **Turing**; his children **Tess** and **Doming**, **Boy** and **Odette**, **Jr.** and **Cynthia**, **Norman** and **Jeannette**, **Noemi** and **Jay**; brothers, sisters, grandchildren, relatives and friends request everyone to pray with us at his return to our Creator.

His remains lie in state at Garden of Memories Memorial Chapels (Chapel 4), Caruncho Avenue, Pasig City, Metro Manila (near Immaculate Conception, Pasig Church).

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory on the
1st Death Anniversary of

October 3, 1921 - January 11, 2000

Emmanuel S. Atilano

Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

Don Bosco Parish, Makati City	*6:00 PM*
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, QC	*6:00 AM*
St. Joseph Church, Pacdal, Baguio City	*6:15 AM*
Makati Medical Center Chapel, Makati City	*4:00 PM*

His family request whose lives he touched and the reader to pray for his eternal happiness.

HRC MEMORIAL SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD

	Name of Deceased	Viewing Place	Interment Date
1.	Sergio D. Abuan	#22 Yakal Street, Project 3 Quezon City	January 11, 2001
2.	Oscar G. Vargas	#10 Dama de Noche Street New Manila, Quezon City	January 11, 2001
3.	Gregoria E. Roxas	Malate Church, Manila	January 14, 2001
4.	Gabriel B. Henson	Miraculous Medal Church Project 4, Quezon City	Interred on January 6, 2001

For our services, please call Tel Nos 948-0233 and 948-0374. Telefax 948-0265 located at Loyola Memorial Park Administration Building. Tañong, Marikina City. We are sure we can help you

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Master KEVIN CHRISTOPHER CAJUCOM TOBIAS

Died peacefully at the age of 4
on December 31, 2000.

His beloved parents Atty. Danilo Tobias and Ellen Cajucom Tobias; sister Danielle and other relatives mourn his passing and wish him eternal rest.

His body will be transferred from Iloilo City to Loyola Memorial Chapels on January 11, 2001 and will be cremated on January 13, 2001, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are Yours."

John 17:9

In Commemoration of
the Tenth Death Anniversary of

Atty. MOISES MENESES SALONGA JR.

From the people who honor
and cherish your memory

your wife: **Marilyn**
you sons: **Jose Moises**, **Jose Marmoi** and **Joseph Mark**
your sisters: **Tina** and **Jimmy**, **Cora** and **Willy**, **Carmelita** and **Jim**, **Carol** and **Philip**, **Cynch** and **Greg**
your brother: **Rev. Fr. Domingo Salonga**
your father: **Atty. Moises Salonga, Sr.**
nephews and nieces.

Masses will be offered today at the

Ateneo de Manila High School Chapel	7:00 AM
Ateneo de Manila College Chapel	7:15 AM
Ateneo de Manila Professional School Chapel	6:00 PM
Santuario de San Jose (Greenhills)	7:15 AM
EDSA Shrine Chapel	6:30 AM
Sta. Monica Church, Angat, Bulacan	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Project 8, Quezon City	6:00 AM
Christ the King Church, Quezon City	6:00 PM
Dela Strada Church	6:00 PM
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City	
Peñafrancia Basilica National Shrine, Naga City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Immaculate Concepcion Parish	5:00 PM
St. John de Evangelist Metropolitan Cathedral, Naga City	7:00 AM

The Chairman of the Board of
MILLENNIUM COMPUTER TECH. CORP.
VIRTUAL RESOURCES, INC.
CONTINUUM TECHNOLOGY CORP. AND
LONDON LEARNING CENTER-BINONDO

Benito Tan Liat Hui

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 9, 2001
at the age of 63.

His dearest wife **MARY**; children and their spouses **JEANNY & EDISON**, **JAYSON & JANILYN**, and **JEREMY & MAYBELLINE** together with his grandchildren **JULIUS ELEAZAR**, **JANELLE ELISE**, **TROY JUSTIN** and **JOSHUA MIKYLE**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel-8 La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be held on Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 AM, La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

A Requiem Evangelistic Service will be celebrated on Thursday, January 11 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 13 at 8:00 a.m. at the Funeraria Paz, Chapel-8.

Our Dear Mommy, Lola Mamang, Granny

GLORIA CALMA CANO

loving wife of the late **Jose Cruz Cano**,
peacefully joined her Creator
in the Year of Grace on January 8, 2001
at the age of 84.

Her bereaved children **Joe** (†) and **Julie**, **Linda** and **Nilo Chincuanco**, **Jimmy** (†) and **Tessie**, and **Raffy** and **Ludy**; together with her grandchildren and great grandchildren; in-laws, nephews and nieces; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 2, St. Alphonsus de Liguori, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 13, 2001, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church.

"For His mercy endures forever..." *Psalm 136*

RISEN CHRIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Mourns the death of its

Founding Head Coordinator and Presiding Elder

Bro. ANTONIO O. VASQUEZ

The Board of Trustees, Governance Council, Council of Elders, Pastoral Workers, Members and the Spiritual Director of the RCCC request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Mass will be offered on Friday, January 12 at 6:30 PM
Telecoms Plaza Chapel, Makati City.

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Truck makers hurt by approval of DaimlerChrysler's import needs

BY TESSA RELAMPAGOS SALAZAR

BASHED, battered and bruised. This is how the members of the Truck Manufacturers Association must be feeling these days, as knockout punches greet them in the New Year.

First, the TMA admits it was hurt due to the recent approval of then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora to allow DaimlerChrysler and local partner Norkis Automotive Resources Corp. to import 1,000 semi-knocked down (SKD) units of Chrysler sports utility vehicles and pickups this year. Zamora submitted a letter directing the Board of Investments to import SKD units. An option to import additional units in 2002 (2,500 units) and 2003 (3,500 units) is also in the offing. The TMA added that this is despite the automaker being a relative newcomer in the local market.

The Jan. 8 report that came out in the INQUIRER also stated several conditions given to the automaker and its local partner. These include: DaimlerChrysler and Norkis must go to full automotive assembly using completely knocked down units within 18 months; put up a guarantee for its committed net foreign exchange earnings; and provide a bond to cover for the discounts it would get through preferred duties.

The TMA also questioned the need for an SKD deal when most of its members' manufacturing plants had already been in place. Its members have for their output either CBU (completely built-up units), which has higher tariffs, or CKD (completely knocked down) to be assembled in their local plants. The TMA stressed that these assembly plants help the local parts makers industry.

Though it's almost a completely built-up unit (CBUs) minus batteries and tires, SKDs are not charged a 30-percent tariff rate the same way CBUs are charged. Instead, SKDs are charged the same way CKDs are charged: a meager 3 to 10 percent. This enables SKDs to enjoy 20 to 27 percent discount.

A few years ago, the BOI reportedly terminated SKD import licenses under the Motor Vehicle Development Program when some assemblers abused the privileges that were meant for startups. Only special SKD licenses are granted by BOI via Malacañang endorsement.

Meantime, here's the second knockout punch that greeted the TMA member-companies. The 2001 fate of the auto industry's truck makers was put in uncertainty as the impeachment trial of President Estrada continued to drag on. The TMA member-companies have thus temporarily suspended their industry's final forecast for 2001.

Despite gaining a 17-percent growth over 1999 in the AUV up to the trucks and buses categories, with a sales performance of 55,000 last year, the truck industry has become uncertain of its 2001 output.

"The year 2000 was supposed to be the start of the recovery for the automotive industry, which was manifested from January to September. But when the trial started in October, the industry's sales went down. Its performance got even worse in November and December," said TMA president Frank Nacua.

Various speculations of the fate of trucks and commercial vehicles ruled the TMA's Jan. 8 meeting as members agreed that the initial verdict is a flat growth this 2001. This, however, is subject to another round of discussions after the impeachment trial ruling on Feb. 12.

Nacua stressed that sales will be down on the first quarter because of the ongoing trial.

"Others are speculating that the 2001 sales performance will grow. Others are cautious because they have anticipated a drop for the first quarter of 2001 and maybe a slight recovery on the second quarter," said Nacua.

AUVs are still considered the banner segment of the commercial vehicle industry. Over 50 percent of sales in the commercial vehicles have been credited to AUVs.

Varied predictions from various truck manufacturers have also come out. These are:

- Overall, the sales drop would be about 5 to 7 percent compared to 2000.
- Flat growth in 2001. Whatever the deficiency on the first half will be recovered in the second semester of the year.

Meanwhile, Nacua has been elected to another term as president of the TMA. It would be Nacua's third term. TMA members include major players in the Philippine auto industry such as Ford, Toyota, Nissan and Mitsubishi.

Echo and Verita: A Comparo

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

COMPARING the Toyota Echo hatchback and the Nissan Verita may be like comparing apples and oranges, but they do have several major specs in common. Both are CBUs (completely built up) cars powered by 1.3-liter, in-line 4-cylinder DOHC 16-valve engines and both are smaller than competing 1.3-liter sedans like the Toyota Corolla XL, the Honda City Type Z LXi or the Nissan Sentra FE. Both are eye-catching because of their unusual shapes, the Echo in its radical, funky way and the Verita with its classic retro look.

Although the Echo (P659,000 for the automatic, P624,000 for the manual transmission) is priced lower than the Verita (P675,000, available with automatic transmission only) it can claim a higher level of technology because its engine is Variable Valve Timing-intelligent (VVT-I). Performance-wise, the Echo's powerplant seemed a bit faster in reaching 120 kilometers per hour, although the Verita is by no means a laggard (I test-drove the automatic transmission models of both cars). The Echo has bigger feet (14-inch tires on alloy wheels) than the Verita (13-inch tires on chromed steel wheels.)

Both cars have central-locking power door locks, power windows and side mirrors. On the other hand, the Verita has keyless entry with an electronic alarm system, while the Echo's doors are opened manually with a key and has no alarm system. The Verita's doors automatically lock once the car starts moving, a convenience not found in the Echo.

Both the Echo and the Verita have CD players as standard equipment. But while the Verita's audio system consists of a Pioneer 12-disc changer, a tuner, cassette player and six speakers, the Echo's is a Kenwood single in-dash CD player with a tuner, four speakers and no cassette player. The difference, of course, is explained by the gap between the price tags of the two cars. The Verita has four retractable grab handles, which means you can't hang a hanger on any of them. The Echo, on the other hand, has two fixed grab handles, both of them above the front doors. Their location makes using a hanger impractical. Office workers who drive to work do need a place to hang a suit's jacket or a *barong tagalog*.

The Verita has two cupholders: a pull-out one under the stereo and another in the center console between the front seats. However, I found neither deep enough. The Echo has three adequately sized cupholders: two in front under the stereo and one in the center console within reach of rear seat passengers. Both the Echo and the Verita have manual antennas. But while the Verita's is fixed and attached above the driver's window, the Echo's removable antenna is roof-mounted above the windshield. The Verita has a more complete set of gauges. The Echo has no tachometer and no oil gauge.

Neither car has airbags or anti-lock brake system (ABS). But they both have 3-pt ELR seatbelts, side impact beams and energy-absorbing crumple zones.

The Echo is equipped with a catalytic converter while the Verita is not. However, the Verita also has something that the Echo does not: UV-cut glass that deflects 92 percent of ultraviolet rays. The Verita's clock is a classic white-faced analog with gold trim while the Echo's is digital.

The Echo has more storage compartments and cubbyholes than the Verita. But the Verita has leather seats, woodgrain and chrome trim on the steering wheel, gear shift and dashboard while the Echo has semi-fabric seats, a urethane steering wheel and no woodgrain or chrome trim. The Verita's more luxurious interior details are not surprising, considering its higher price.

The Echo comes in a wide range of bright pastel colors while the Verita is available in only two colors: dark—almost black—green and dark maroon.

So which is the better buy? I think that for young families who can afford only one car, the Echo is more practical; while for yuppies who have reached a certain level of income and sophistication, the Verita would make a distinguished second car.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Fight prime time. Read a book.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla @pacific. net.ph

NISSAN CEFIRO BROUGHAM

Lucy Liu and her back-seat back rub

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY VERNON B. SARNE

NISSAN'S Cefiro Brougham is dripping in elegance and luxury from front to rear.

FAST FACTS

NISSAN CEFIRO BROUGHAM

Type:	Front-wheel drive 4-door midsize sedan
Engine:	2.0-liter 24-valve DOHC V6
Maximum power:	155 ps @ 6,400 rpm
Maximum torque:	19.0 kg-m @ 4,400 rpm
Transmission:	4-speed automatic
Dimensions (L x W x H):	4.86 m x 1.77 m x 1.42 m
Wheelbase:	2.70 m
Front suspension:	Independent MacPherson struts with coil springs and stabilizer bar
Rear suspension:	Multi-Link Beam suspension
Brakes:	Ventilated discs in front; solid discs in rear
Safety:	ABS; dual front airbags; side-impact beams
Wheels and tires:	15-inch alloys; 205/65 R15
Seating capacity:	5
Price:	P1,560,000

IMAGINE this: Lucy Liu is very intent on relaxing your fourth and fifth vertebrae. So she stands on your back and gently strokes them by lightly trampling on the upper portion of your spinal column. As Lucy does this, you feel a soothing vibration work against your back. She is so good, you fall asleep.

Or rather, the back-seat massage feature of the Nissan Cefiro Brougham is so good, you doze off. And you never get to see the ending of "Charlie's Angels," which is being screened on the sedan's 6-inch Sony TV monitor. When you wake up, you play the VCD again and hope that this time you'll stay conscious to see the not-so-angelic trio of Alex, Dylan, and Natalie kick some bad ass. Good luck.

If you think the back-seat massager and the TV monitor with VCD player are too cool to be included as standard features of the Cefiro's top-of-the-line variant, we can only agree. And we haven't even gone halfway through the list.

The Cefiro Brougham is of course the proud—and expensive—flagship of the current Nissan fleet. Presumably, this is the one variant that Yulon Motor has called upon to restore Nissan's image as a maker of fine automobiles. It's the one model that Yulon hopes would do Nissan owners proud. First of all, it's not a car that would chalk up impressive numbers in the sales department, the price certainly being restrictive. Yes, this luxury sedan is worth the price, but anyone who has P1.56 million will be hard-pressed to go for a Japanese saloon instead of a European one.

But really, the Cefiro Brougham is particularly special because of all the elegant touches that Nissan bestowed upon it. Make no mistake about it: This Cefiro still hasn't discarded its old body and dimensions. But Nissan was able to subtly modify its styling such that it now looks fresh and doubly sophisticated. Nissan's intent to make this sedan ooze with refinement is immediately evident on the hood. Taking the place of the old mundane Nissan logo on the grille is a very elitist winged emblem that bears a striking resemblance with Aston Martin's.

So elegant-looking is the Brougham that Nissan decided to throw in illuminated step plates that spell out the name "Cefiro" in bold letters, perhaps to make sure you won't forget it's made in Japan, not England.

Seriously, a quick inspection of the Brougham's interior features reveals that hiring a chauffeur is the next step to purchasing the car. Believe us, the best seat in the house—we mean the sedan—is situated at the back. There, the owner of the car can pull down the ceiling-mounted TV screen, push a few buttons found on the center armrest to play a VCD, rest his feet on the retractable front passenger seat back, sit back, and switch on the back-seat massager. Now that's what we call traveling in style.

Not only are all the seats wrapped in leather, they are all power-adjusted. And not only can you watch a VCD on the monitor, there are port provisions for other audio-visual sources. PlayStation2 included. Aside from the 6 CD/VCD-changer found in the trunk, there's a single in-dash CD and cassette players. And have we mentioned the sound quality? The Brougham is worthy of a THX certification. Perfect when Cameron Diaz is delivering her lethal flying kick to the tune of "Smack My Bitch Up."

The air purifier system and the sunshields around the rear compartment make this a truly cozy and comfortable sedan. A hands-free audio phone system (cell phone not included) completes the package. Curiously absent though is a sunroof, which is kind of weird because it's available with the lower Cefiro Elite variant (nearly P300,000 cheaper) and even the Sentra Exalta.

The Cefiro Brougham retains its long-running—and award-winning—VQ engine. The 2.0-liter 24-valve DOHC V6 powerplant doesn't actually excel in the horsepower department. But it should get five stars in the smoothness of its operation, combining with Nissan's Multi-Link Beam suspension to give the Cefiro the best ride quality in its class, bar none.

Safety still comes in the form of ABS, dual airbags, and side-impact beams.

The driver may not exactly be thrilled with the Cefiro's not-so-impressive engine vigor, but the owner will definitely be wallowing in luxury in the back seat. With Lucy Liu no less.

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Hi, ho Silverado, away!

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

YAH! My odyssey with Goliath-sized vehicles in the congested, narrow streets of Manila continues. I have just tamed one of the most tough-looking and sophisticated full-size pickup there is in the country—the Chevy Silverado 1500 Extended Cab 4x4. And like many other males before me, I didn't come home disappointed.

If more legroom is what we've been seeking for, more room is what we get. Aside from the large cabin, the extended cab model' provides ample backseat legroom, 33.7 inches of it.

Driving visibility was well considered in this model. And it has such nicely shaped side mirrors. I have handled V8 engines before, and Chevy's Vortex V8 (automatic transmission) is noticeably more responsive and more fuel-efficient. Though I expected a gas-guzzler in a full-size pickup, I was surprised to find out how its fuel-efficiency system makes it driving significantly more economical than other similar-size vehicles.

But just like big vehicles in our small islands, the Chevy is too "visible." I couldn't fit it in a lot of ordinary middle-class garages. I needed a *pahinante* (or what truck drivers call their assistant navigators) to negotiate narrow parking lots and side streets. This vehicle does need some getting used to in driving through those tight spaces.

Chevy loyalists need not despair, though. Despite pressures from trendy automotive competitors, Chevrolet has managed to maintain a certain degree of nonconformity. The square-shouldered look that Chevy and GM fans have come to admire is still its distinct ID. GM and Chevrolet seems to have heeded consumer feedback that most Chevy loyalists didn't want the "soft" look of some revamped full-size pickups, nor the big-rig look that some of its competitors ventured into.

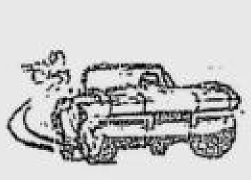
Let me say it straight, then. Although Ford is ahead in the Pinoy's taste for luxury trucks, GM's Silverado is something to look forward to every now and then.

A CHEVY Silverado "bath." Sleeker with softer lines, the Silverado retains the square-shouldered look for Chevy loyalists who don't want the tender look.

Toyota supports Delasin, top athlete of 2000

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza



TOYOTA has done it again.

Responding to a call that touched a bit on patriotism, Toyota has agreed to stake an Echo Verso as a hole-in-one prize in a golf tournament in honor of Dorothy Joy Delasin.

The tournament is set at Riviera's Langer in Silang, Cavite, on Jan. 17.

"It is our way of recognizing the great importance of Ms Delasin to Philippine sports in particular and to world sports in general," said Raymond Rodriguez of Toyota Motor Philippines.

Playing a crucial role in clinching the Toyota sponsorship is Ariel de Jesus, Raymond's well-trusted deputy. In fact, Raymond and Ariel, together with Vince, are known as RAV 3 in the motoring industry. RA for Raymond and Ariel, and V for Vince (Socco).

But Vince has resigned from Toyota last Dec. 15. Vince is now vacationing in the Big Apple that is New York. He hasn't decided yet on whether or not he will accept a reported multimillion-peso offer from Ford.

Abangan.

* * *

Speaking of the tournament at Riviera, it is called "A Day With Delasin Part 2." It is a tribute to this year's Athlete of the Year awardee of the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Dorothy was the unanimous choice for the plum, to be given to her on Jan. 18 at the Holiday Inn.

Dorothy won the award for her singular achievement of winning the prestigious Rookie of the Year award in the US LPGA, aside from having captured one tournament in the 2000 LPGA series. Both achievements were a first by a Filipino.

Citgo, a famous motor oil in America, is also sponsoring the Delasin tournament jointly hosted by the Riviera Golf & Country Club through its president Commodore Danny Pizarro and the National Golf Association of the Philippines through its president, Rod Feliciano.

* * *

Dorothy's trip to Manila is financed both by Cinnabon Rolls, the world-famed restaurant/bakeshop based in the United States and which has recently set shop (6 branches as of last count) in Manila, and Shell Pilipinas.

Cinnabon and Shell will also shoulder Dorothy's stay at a 5-star hotel (for 2) and transportation services while she and her father, Sonny, are in Manila.

I talked to Sonny by overseas phone last Friday to relay to him the good news about her daughter. Sonny, who is based with his family in Daly City, San Francisco, said, "Well, what can I say? I'm proud to be a Filipino."

Sonny was raised in Misamis Oriental. He left for the United States with his wife some 25 years ago. Dorothy was born in Texas 20 years ago.

But even as Sonny adopted America as home, he made it a point that his children would learn to speak Tagalog. And so, Dorothy can speak fluent Tagalog like her three sisters and one brother.

"*Pilipino tayong lahat, saan man tayo naroroon,*" said Sonny. "*Anumang tagumpay natin, tagumpay na rin ng lahat ng Pilipino.*"

I'm proud to be a Filipino.

* * *

Except for the CR-V special edition variants, all regular models of Honda are covered by a tempting promo capsulized in one line, "Plus Cash Incentives."

The Honda City GL M/T can be had at P489,000! What a bargain. Given free for every purchase of that model are a 1-year comprehensive insurance, LTO registration fees and other exciting "freebies" like floor mats and tools.

The promo extends to other models to read, and I quote: "Check out the all-yours, all-in deals for the HR-V, CR-V and Accord."

It ends on Jan. 31.

* * *

I support the stand of Porta Coell Industrial Co. to lift the ban on the importation of used and brand-new parts for "multicab" motorcycles.

It is because the company will be forced to shut down its P200-million assembly plant in Cebu if the request is not granted. To be affected are 1,000 workers, who will lose their jobs should the closure ensue.

"If the request is granted," said Luis Quisumbing of Norkis Group (owner of Porta Coell), "the company will even explore new export markets like Cuba and Indonesia. Multicab is a four-wheel utility vehicle designed to replace the tricycle through the country."

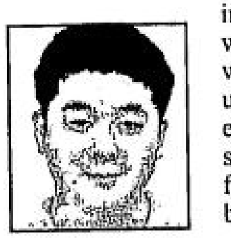
Sol Juvida, my lifetime love, happens to own a Multicab. It's a very functional vehicle. A gas-miser, it is perfect for "errands" around the neighborhood. Good for grocery use.

* * *

QUOTE ME. **It's a must for car manufacturers to install cell phone pockets to their units—in front and at the back of the vehicle's interior.**

Aiming for the low

THE MAD TEA PARTY



Clinton Palanca

LAST weekend, as I dropped my date home at 4 a.m., we both swore that it was the last time we would go out like this, and that we ought to go back to the more mundane activities that we usually undertook together, like watching movies, having dinner and going grocery shopping. This resolution would have been more credible if we hadn't made it the last three times I dropped her home.

The holiday season has introduced a new, mind-numbing activity, more potentially damaging to one's cerebral processes than any drug. Around the middle of last year, I found myself wondering where all the attractive people had disappeared to, since they were nowhere to be found in the usual Makati or Malate bars. I still have no idea where they went then (because, you see, I'm not cool), but I know where they are now: they are arrayed in black and pashmina along the strip of bars along one side of the Power Plant at Rockwell.

As I've explained before, I'm not a bar or club sort of person. But many of my friends are, and I'm not one to turn down the opportunity to watch a mesmerizing display of bare flesh. This is why I had my cable television disconnected: I could tune in to the Fashion Television channel and sink into a sort of trance, rousing myself only to rehydrate some more instant noodles before rushing back to catch the next model from Spain. At Rockwell, I sank onto one of the flower boxes and adopted a glassy stare, like those unnerving mental patients who would, if a box of matches were dropped on the floor, quietly say, "One hundred and thirty-four pieces," and then lapse back into silence.

I don't like meeting people at bars because I don't quite know what to say to them. As far as I can see, conversation (above the din of pounding music) usually consists of three things: where they came from, whom they are with, and where they are going. In dialogue form, and corresponding lack of grammatical exactitude: "Hey, where'd you come from? Who're you with? Where are you going after?" In a three-minute conversation, one covers what in philosophy are known as historicity, intersubjectivity and teleology. But instead of an oral exam, one moves on to the next scantily clad woman (who equally cleverly sidesteps and refuses to disclose her phone number. Such is life).

We usually opt to have dinner elsewhere, though, because an earlier attempt to eat at one of the restaurant/bars along that strip had ended in disaster. I will tactfully refrain from disclosing the name of the establishment. For lack of a better venue upon which to vent my disgust at the mediocrity of my meal, I snapped at the waiter. He went off looking murderous. It began to rain. We huddled under the umbrellas covering the tables miserably, pushing our plates at one another. There was nothing wrong with the food: it wasn't poisonous, or bad, or even unpleasant. It was just mediocre: extremely mediocre, if that doesn't strike one as an oxymoron. "Airline food," said my friend. "Not even business class."

Stylish

After dinner, for a change, we decided to drop by our friends' store, also at Rockwell but a few steps away from the mall, near the administration buildings. It's called Estilo, and is above Brother's Burger. You can tell who's heading for Brother's Burger, because they usually have ravenous glints in their eyes, and who's heading for Estilo, because they are usually stylish and thin, and look as though they have never been hungry in their lives. Leah Puyat and Anton Barretto are partners in an extremely eclectic but gorgeous little store, a madcap Old Curiosity Shop of items that have nothing in common except that they are stylish. It's a left-wing fashionable person's haven. You know the type: not Paris, but Bali; not Louis XIV, but chinoiserie; not ivory, but raffia. Chiva-som and Amanpulo. Not my aesthetic, definitely (I'm into Victoriana); but much better than porcelain Dalmatians. Okay, I shall stop right there.

I love the shop because Leah and Anton are nuts. Anton was fussing over the door to the bathroom: he wanted it replaced because it didn't look quite right to him (to me, it seemed like a perfectly good door). Leah was raving over placemats made from moss. Like I said, they're nuts. But nothing in the shop is mundane; nothing in the shop is quite normal. It's utterly wonderful.

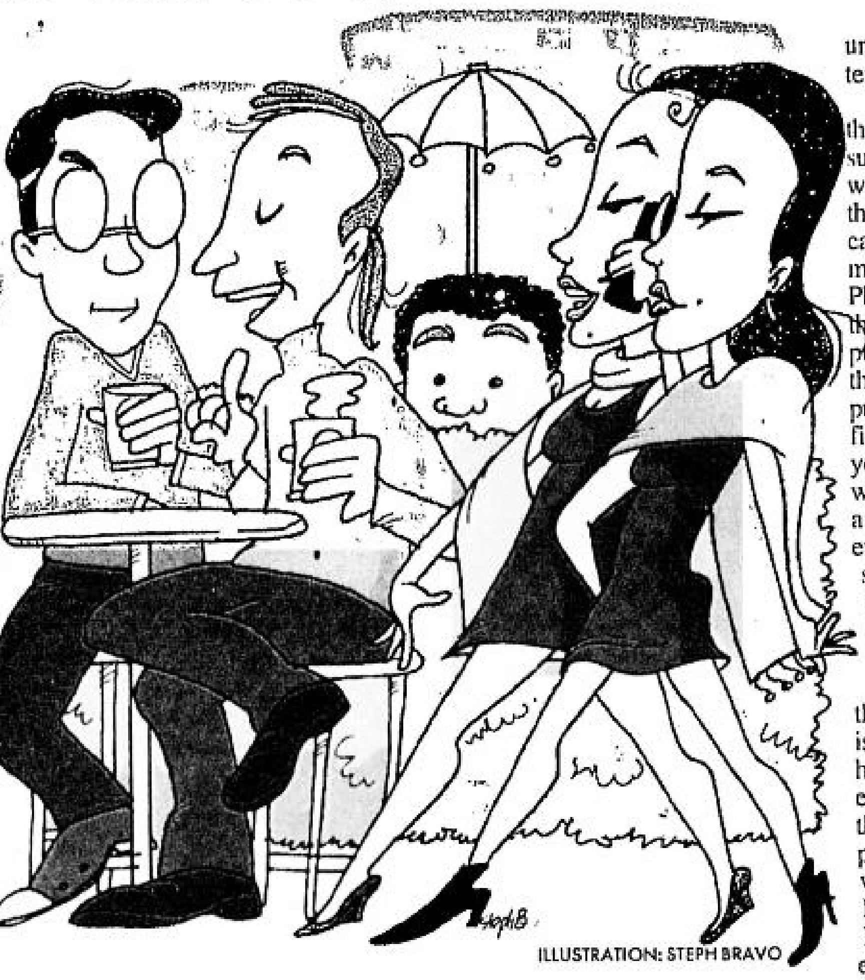


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Pleasing everybody

I realized that the reason I disliked the food so intensely at this establishment along the Rockwell strip is that they are trying so hard to please everybody; which is, in essence, the driving spirit behind airline food. Airline caterers avoid serving esoteric meats on airplanes because not everyone likes pigeon and ostrich; on some flights, to Muslim or Hindu regions, they'll even avoid pork and beef. But you can't go wrong with chicken or pasta. The menu at this place could have been entirely composed of chicken breast: edible, not entirely unappetizing, but supremely uninteresting.

Rather like the conversation at these bars, as a matter of fact. I'm sure that among these well-dressed, well-heeled, well-educated people, there would have been people who can debate the finer points of grammatology, the connection between Philip Glass and techno music, and the possibility of a portrait of my puppy by a neo-Jackson Pollock. But there are also those who, as someone put it, can't quite remember who came first, the Greeks or the Romans. And you'll never know who's who. So we talk about bars, and restaurants, and whom we saw earlier that evening, and who got married. And sometimes it can become quite interesting; possibly even business-class fare. One always lives in hope of a free upgrade.

Casual conversations begin with the mundane and lead to the outlandish; and the Outlands are where I hope to live most of my life. I quite enjoyed my forced immersion into the holiday nightlife scene, even as I presently look forward to a sedentary week ploughing into the newest Proust biography and an escape to Isla Naburot. But catering to the lowest common denominator is inexcusable for a restaurant, especially one that claims to be hip and cool; you might as well be McDonald's. As a customer, I would upgrade to the very excellent Brother's Burger, and then slip up to Estilo afterward. But if you do, ignore the leather-bound storage trunk on which I've already set my sights.

E-mail the author at clinton@i-manila.com.ph.

Sleepless with Seattle's coffee

(From page B10)

varieties, says Siy, but Starbucks became an American icon due largely to marketing savvy. SBC, under Stewart's helm, had earlier taken a different tack.

"As an avowed connoisseur," Siy adds, "he didn't care much for marketing."

Stewart has managed to remain hands-on. To this day, he still samples and approves the purchase of the finest Arabica. He and longtime master roaster Peter Larsen still inspire SBC's blended coffee recipes and signature house blends.

Stewart, says Siy, helped create a new market of coffee lovers who know the subtle nuances and differences in every cup. This could also be the main reason why SBC took a more cautious approach.

While its competitors started expanding and lending their names to countless franchises all over the world, SBC focused on wholesale customers such as restaurants and airlines in the US until recently. Nearly 300 outlets are expected to open in Japan, Korea, the Middle East and the Philippines this year.

Waker-uppers

What can Filipinos expect from Starbucks' newest rival? Aside from eight house blends to choose from, SBC offers such exclusive beverages, from Jet Tea to Javanilla Shake—a sinful combination of coffee and ice cream rolled into one and topped with whipped cream and sprinkled with ground espresso. They go best with either a slice of chocolate or carrot cake.

Other cold coffee variants include Iced Americano, Iced Latte, Iced Mocha and Iced White Chocolate Mocha. SBC also offers sandwiches, cookies and, yes, *ensaymadas*. There goes the New Year's diet!

FREDERICK Siy likes it foamy.

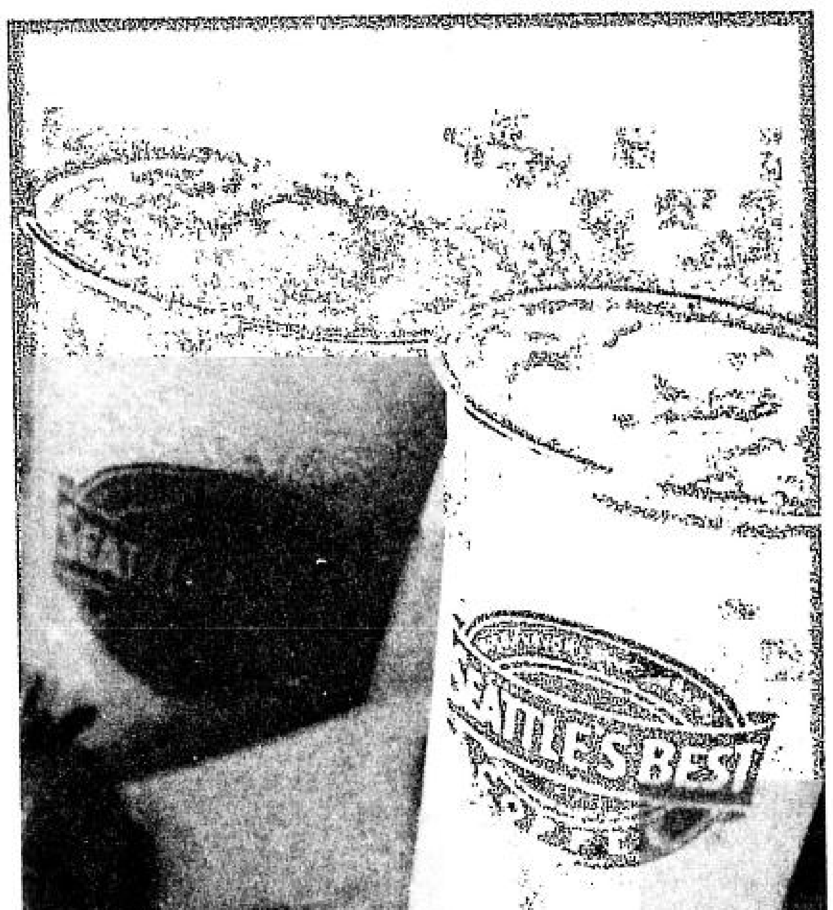
For a healthier, more refreshing alternative, Siy recommends blended mango or strawberry fortified with a full day's supply of Vitamin C, ginkgo biloba and ginseng.

SBC also brews the usual waker-uppers: espresso and several variants, Americano, cappuccino, latte, mocha and drip coffee. Habitués can brew and sip their favorite blends at home; SBC sells packed ground or whole coffee beans as well.

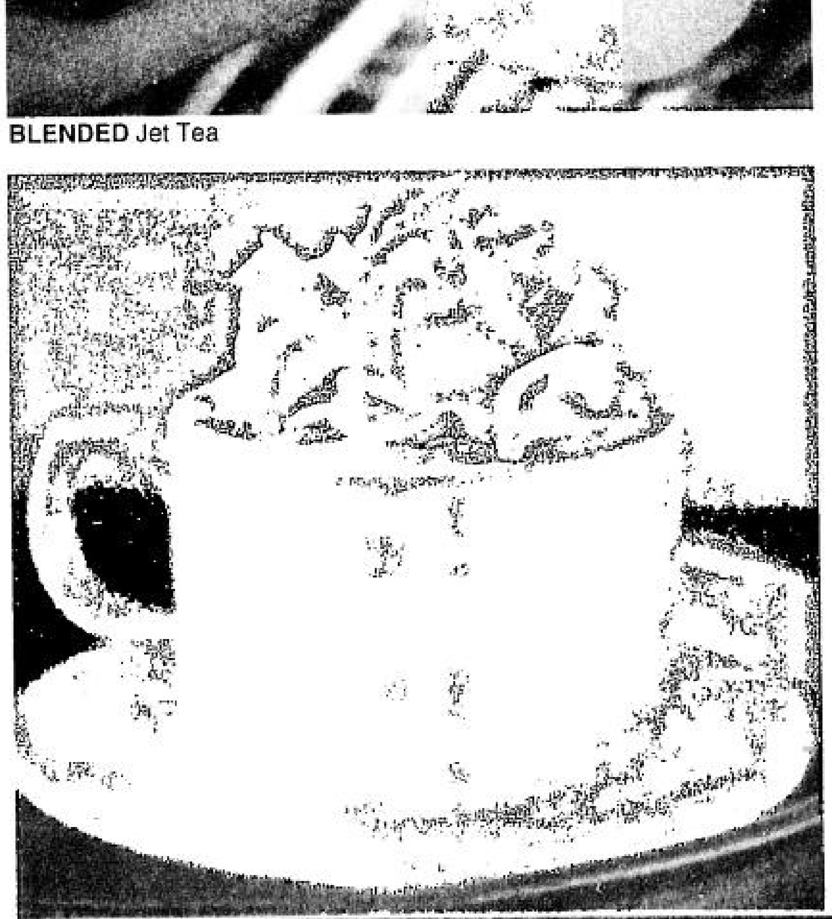
"Our coffee has a rich, full flavor—not bitter, not bland," Siy assures.

With such a wide range of coffee to choose from, we can believe people are sleepless in Seattle and enjoying it.

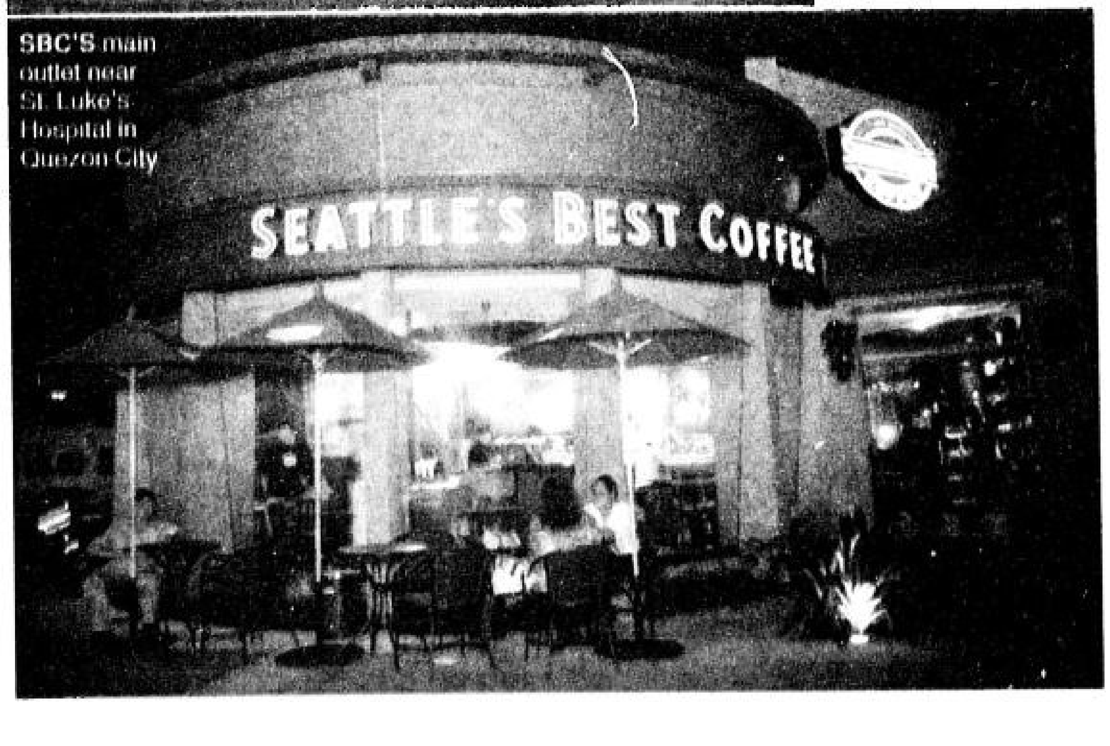
E-mail the author at avergara @inquirer. com.ph



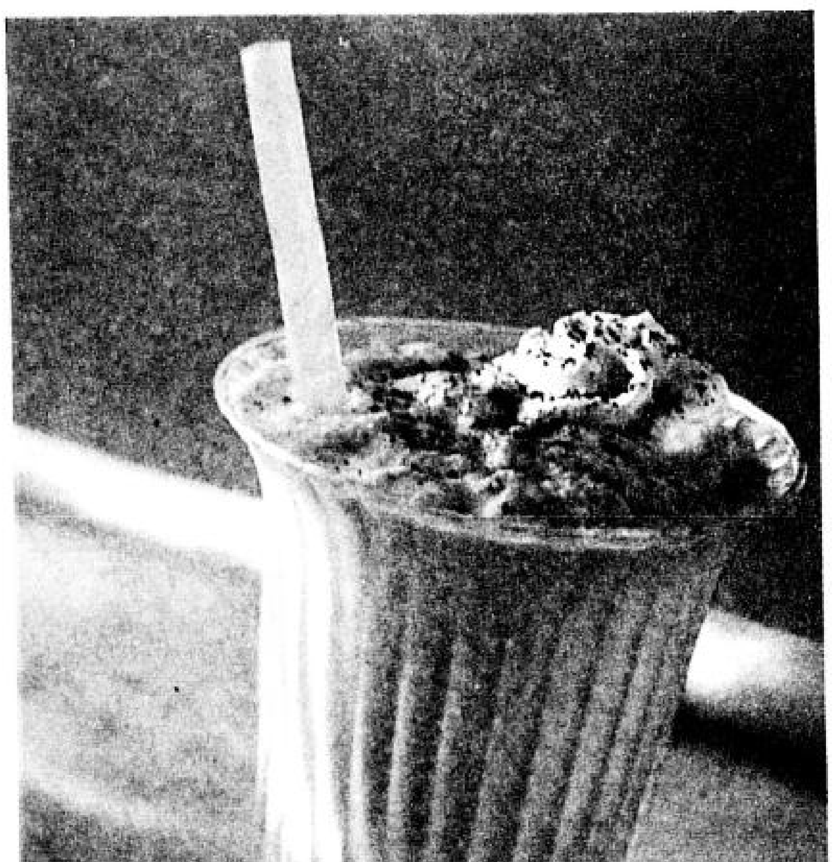
BLENDED Jet Tea



WHITE Chocolate Mocha



SBC'S main outlet near St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City



JAVANILLA Shake

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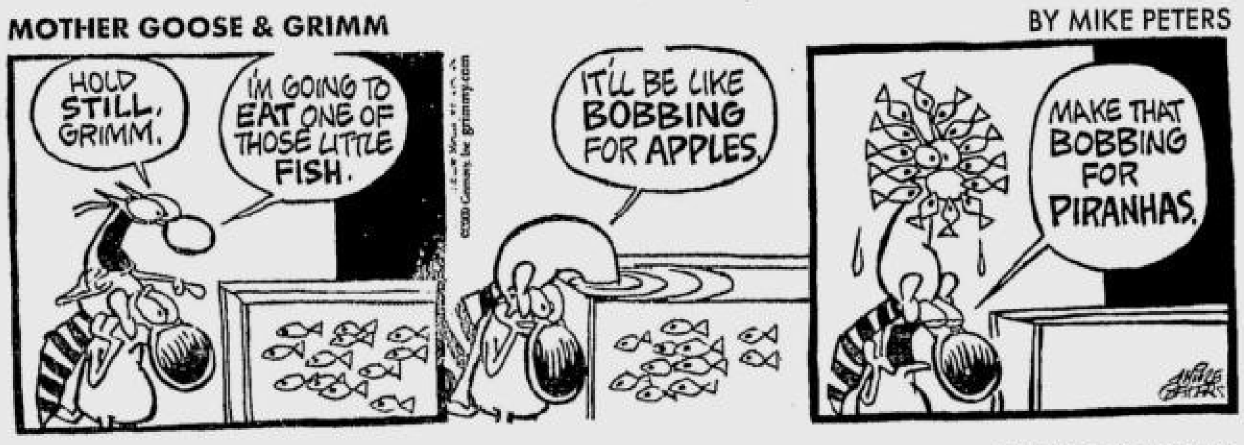
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HOLD STILL, GRIMM.
I'M GOING TO EAT ONE OF THOSE LITTLE FISH.
IT'LL BE LIKE BOBBING FOR APPLES.
MAKE THAT BOBBING FOR PIRANHAS.
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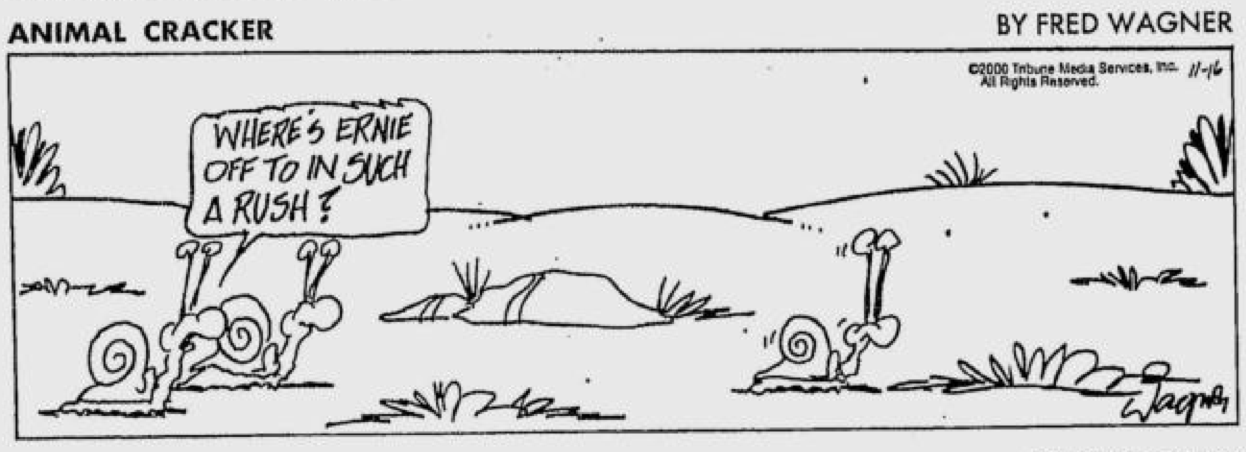
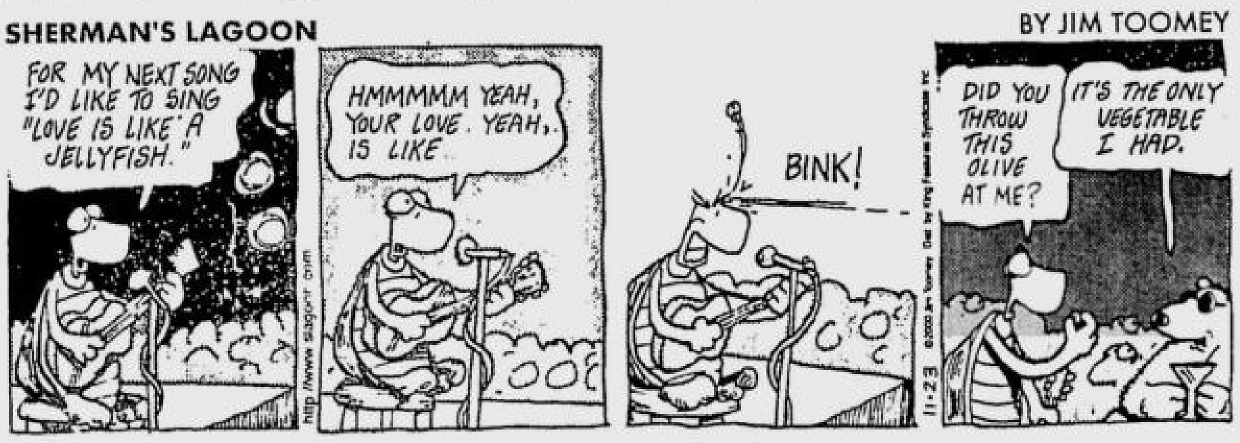
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


©2000 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 11-16
WHERE'S ERNIE OFF TO IN SUCH A RUSH?
Wagner

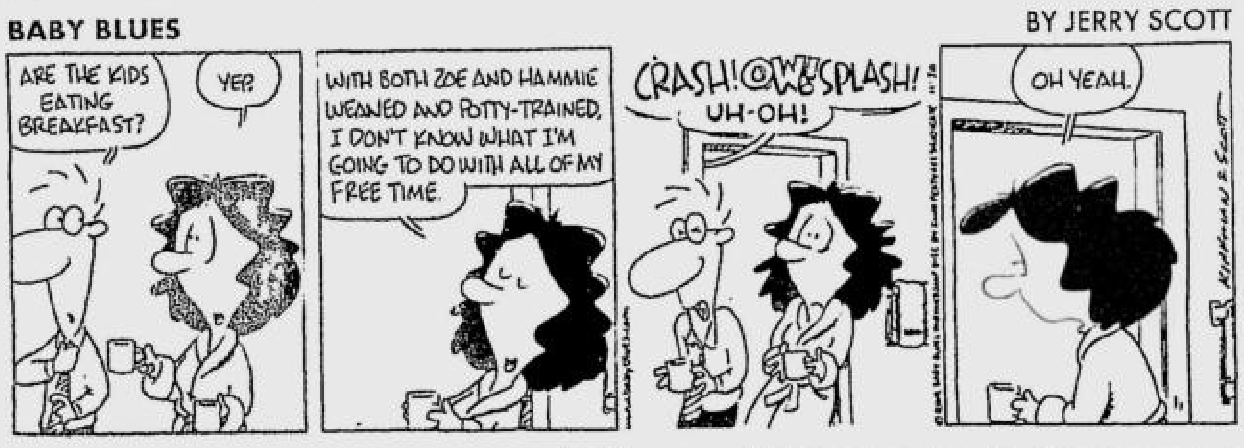
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


FOR MY NEXT SONG I'D LIKE TO SING "LOVE IS LIKE A JELLYFISH."
HMMMMM YEAH, YOUR LOVE. YEAH, IS LIKE
BINK!
DID YOU THROW THIS OLIVE AT ME?
IT'S THE ONLY VEGETABLE I HAD.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-23

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ARE THE KIDS EATING BREAKFAST?
YEP.
WITH BOTH ZOE AND HAMMIE WEANED AND POTTY-TRAINED, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WITH ALL OF MY FREE TIME.
CRASH! OW! SPLASH!
UH-OH!
OH YEAH.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Naomi Judd, Jason Connery, Rod Taylor, Clarence Clemons, Mary J. Blige, Jean Chretien

Happy Birthday: You'll respond to what others want and need. In return, you will receive admiration and thanks. Your willingness to stand behind your convictions will aid you in making financial gains. You can have it all if you're prepared to work hard and to help those less fortunate when necessary. Your numbers: 13, 19, 22, 38, 46, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Other people may try to stand in your way. Don't be a follower. Use your know-how to get things accomplished. You may not please everyone, but that's to be expected.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Partners may be unpredictable. It is best to avoid any confrontations that could lead to major changes in your personal life. Your reputation may be at stake.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It will be difficult to finish educational pursuits at this time, and it's certainly the wrong day to begin new courses. Take a look at your own philosophy rather than what others believe.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take care of any health problems. Financial limitations can be altered if you are disciplined in your spending habits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Partners may want more than you can give. Don't make promises or commitments that you know you can't live up to. Accept changes in your home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Problems with co-workers and employers may be alarming. Try to keep the situation in perspective. Consider that the occurrences may be an indication that you should move on to better things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The time for new experiences is now. You should be getting out with friends. Children may limit you, and financial losses will cause stress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can expect to experience disruptions in your personal life and living quarters. Be prepared to compromise and to lend a helping hand to those less capable of getting things done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Frustration will result if you aren't prepared to let situations unfold at their own pace. You can count on opposition from relatives who have never favored your actions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Concentrate on your financial position and career objectives. You will be able to make professional changes. Don't let others stand in your way. Rely on yourself.

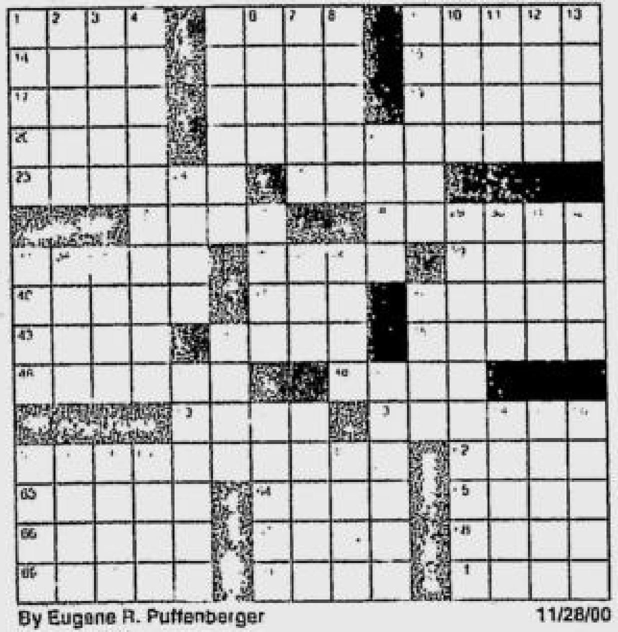
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You mustn't look at changes as being negative. Open your eyes to new beginnings and be ready to move with the times. Don't allow your personal life to hold you back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of your health. You will have a tendency to get run-down. You need a vacation or just a change of pace. Financial gains can be made through conservative investments.

Birthday Baby: You will have a strong desire to learn. You are interesting, capable and determined to reach the highest level of expertise. Intellectual connections will always be your first choice.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

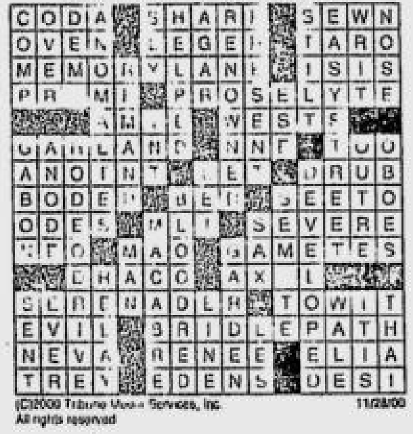


By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
11/28/00

ACROSS
1 Military grp.
Daredevil Knievel
9 U.S. painter Rembrandt
14 Oner
15 Olin or Horne
16 Santa's little helpers
17 Trampled (on)
18 Soon
19 Slumber
20 Tear apart
21 Cheaply manufactured
23 Sock pattern
25 Possess
26 Menu item
28 Borgnine of "Marty"
33 Follow as a consequence
36 John Bayley's "Elegy for ..."
39 On a cruise
40 Peruses
41 Period
42 Audible kiss
43 Encircle
44 Sampras of tennis
45 Ill treatment
46 Assassin
48 Numerous
50 Hit by The Kinks
53 Brother's boy
57 Ineffective
62 Perfect report card
63 Zones
64 Golfer Aoki
65 "La Boheme" heroine
66 Mental picture
67 What to be right as
68 Rorschach shape
69 Mistaken
70 Nearly hopeless
71 Desires

DOWN
1 Extreme prefix
2 More confident
3 Beside
4 Overly fussy
came, fro Rome
7 Methuselah's father
8 Sr.
9 Annoy
10 Jazz singer Fitzgerald
11 With, in Arles
12 Welsh symbol
13 TV sports award
22 Montand of "Tout va bien"
24 Commits perjury
27 Conceal
29 Spineless
30 Jacob's twin
31 Brief time periods
32 Make off with
33 Units of work
34 Simon or Diamond
35 Teasdale or Gilbert
37 Decay
38 List component
42 Rational
44 Front of a ship
47 French palace
49 Whoever
51 Highland landowner
52 Very, in music
54 Selassie of Ethiopia
55 De Valera of Ireland
56 Stands by
57 Homeless child
58 Rombauer of cooking
59 Emblem
60 Old crones
61 Filament

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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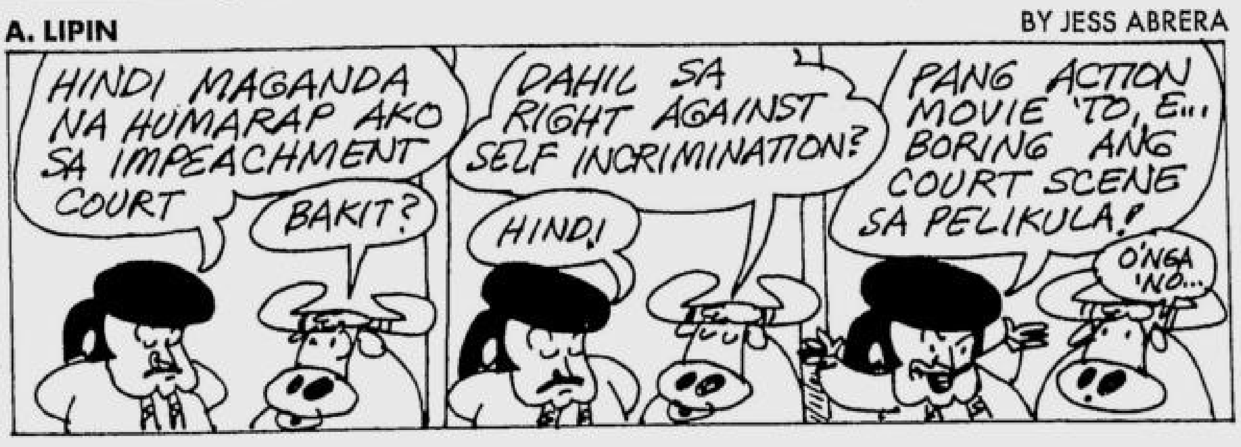
11/28/00

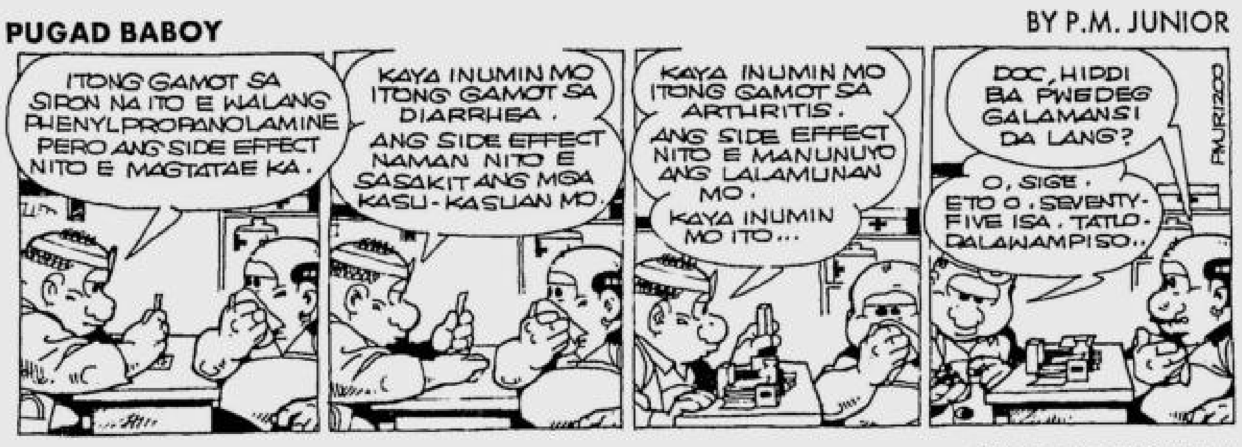
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI MAGANDA NA HUMARAP AKO SA IMPEACHMENT COURT
BAKIT?
DAHIL SA RIGHT AGAINST SELF INCRIMINATION?
HINDI
PANG ACTION MOVIE 'TO, E... BORING ANG COURT SCENE SA PELIKULA!
O'NGA 'NO...

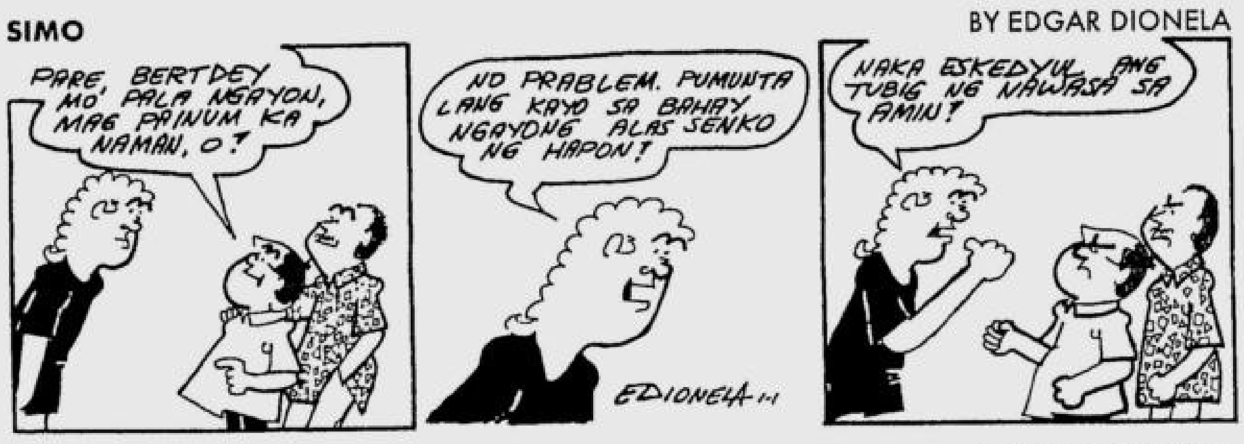
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ITONG GAMOT SA SIPON NA ITO E WALANG PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE PERO ANG SIDE EFFECT NITO E MAGTATAE KA.
KAYA INUMIN MO ITONG GAMOT SA DIARRHEA. ANG SIDE EFFECT NAMAN NITO E SASAKIT ANG MGA KASU-KASUAN MO.
KAYA INUMIN MO ITONG GAMOT SA ARTHRITIS. ANG SIDE EFFECT NITO E MANUNUYO ANG LALAMUNAN MO. KAYA INUMIN MO ITO...
DOC, HIDDI BA PWEDEG GALAMANSI DA LANG?
O, SIGE. ETO O. SEVENTY-FIVE ISA. TATLO-DALAWAMPISO...
PMJRIZOO

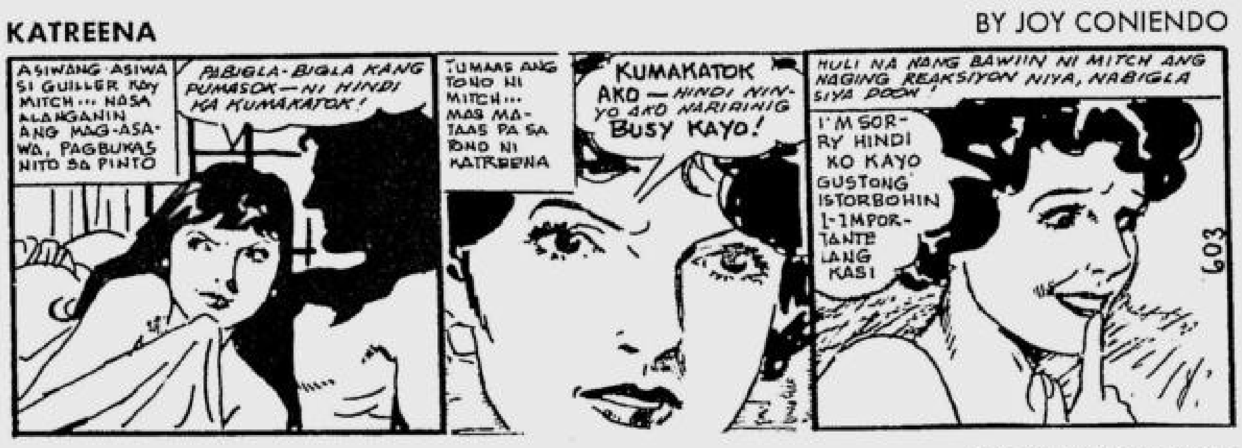
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PARE, BERTDEY MO PALA NGAYON, MAG PAINUM KA NAMAN, O!
NO PRABLEM. PUMUNTA LANG KAYO SA BAHAY NGAYONG ALAS SENKO NG HAPON!
NAKA ESKEDYUL ANG TUBIG NG NAWASA SA AMIN!
EDIONELA 1-1

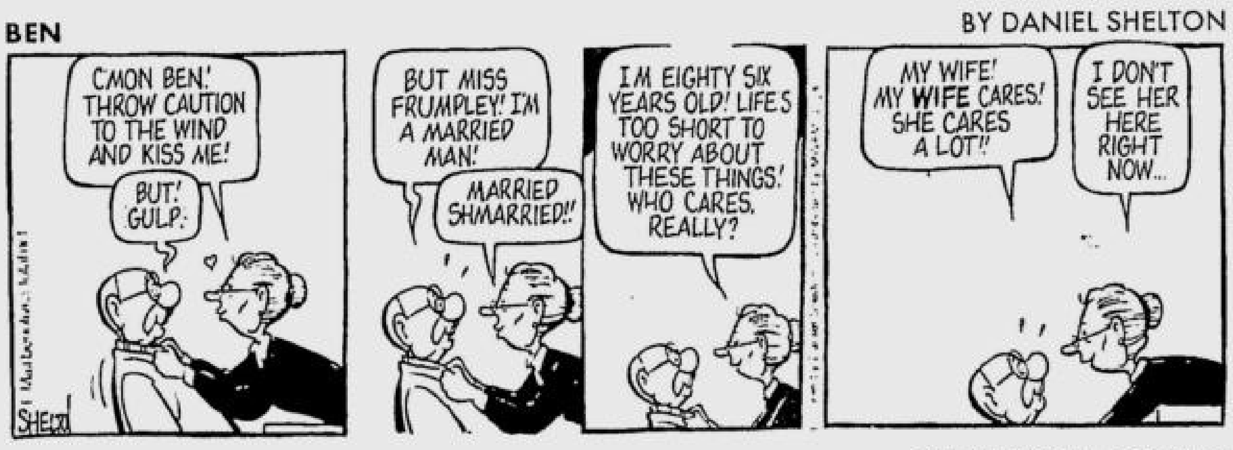
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


ASIWANG-ASIWA SI GUILLER KAY MITCH... NASA ALANGANIN ANG MAG-ASAWA, PAGBUKAS NITO SA PINTO
PABIGLA-BIGLA KANG PUMASOK—NI HINDI KA KUMAKATOK!
TUMAAS ANG TONO NI MITCH... MAS MATAAS PA SA TONO NI KATREENA
KUMAKATOK AKO — HINDI NINYO AKO NARIRINIG BUSY KAYO!
HULI NA NANG BAWIIN NI MITCH ANG NAGING REAKSIYON NIYA, NABIGLA SIYA DOON!
I'M SORRY HINDI KO KAYO GUSTONG ISTORBOHIN I-IMPORTANTE LANG KASI
603

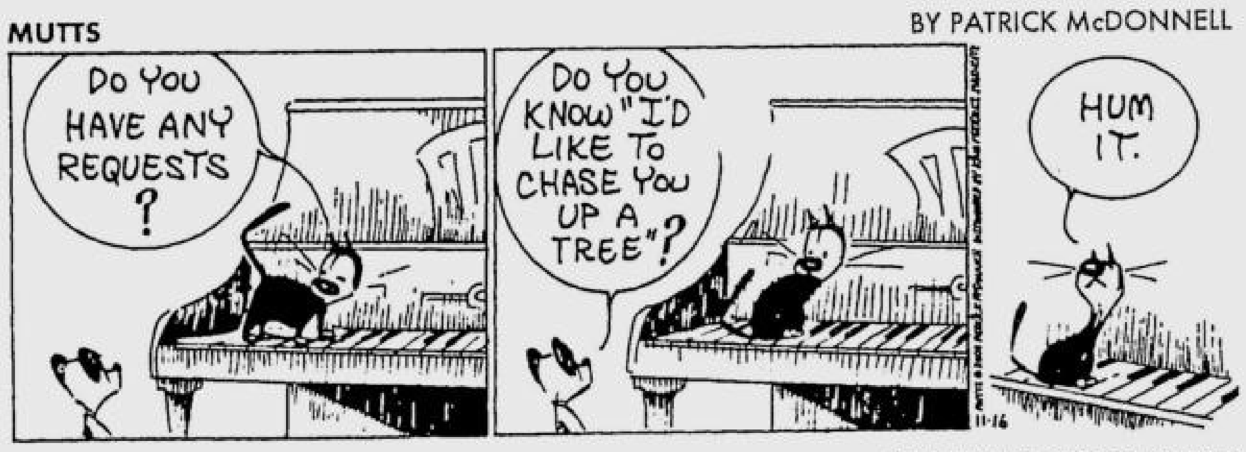
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


C'MON BEN! THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND AND KISS ME!
BUT! GULP.
BUT MISS FRUMPLEY! I'M A MARRIED MAN!
MARRIED SHMARRIED!!
I'M EIGHTY SIX YEARS OLD! LIFE'S TOO SHORT TO WORRY ABOUT THESE THINGS! WHO CARES, REALLY?
MY WIFE! MY WIFE CARES! SHE CARES A LOT!!
I DON'T SEE HER HERE RIGHT NOW...
SHELTON

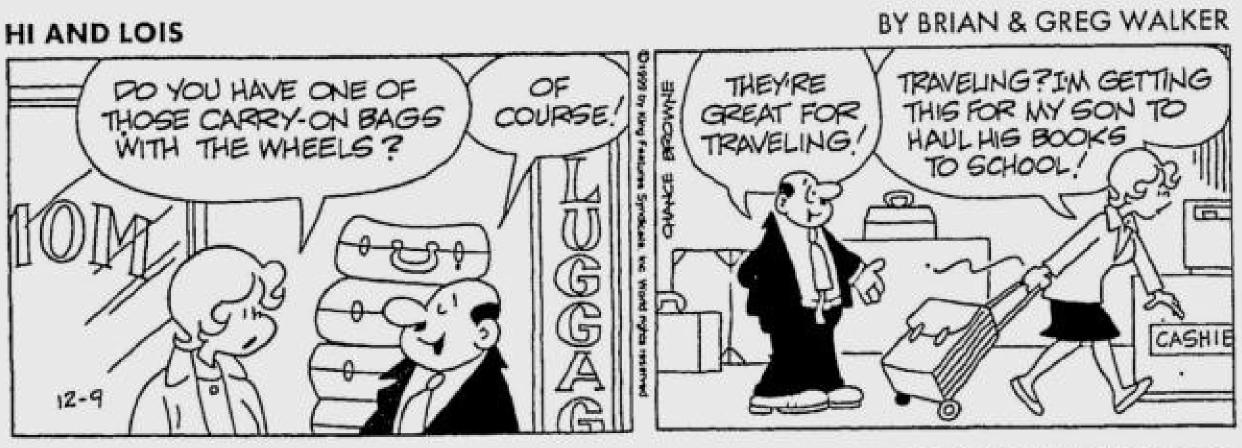
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DO YOU HAVE ANY REQUESTS ?
DO YOU KNOW "I'D LIKE TO CHASE YOU UP A TREE"?
HUM IT.
11-16

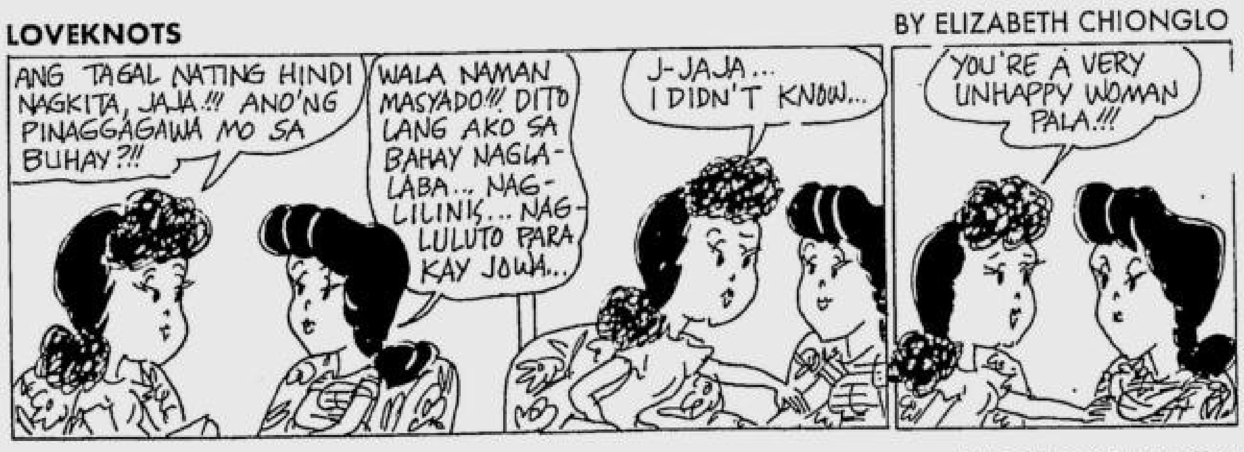
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE CARRY-ON BAGS WITH THE WHEELS?
OF COURSE!
LUGGAG
12-9
CHANCE BROWNE
THEY'RE GREAT FOR TRAVELING!
TRAVELING? I'M GETTING THIS FOR MY SON TO HAUL HIS BOOKS TO SCHOOL!
CASHIE

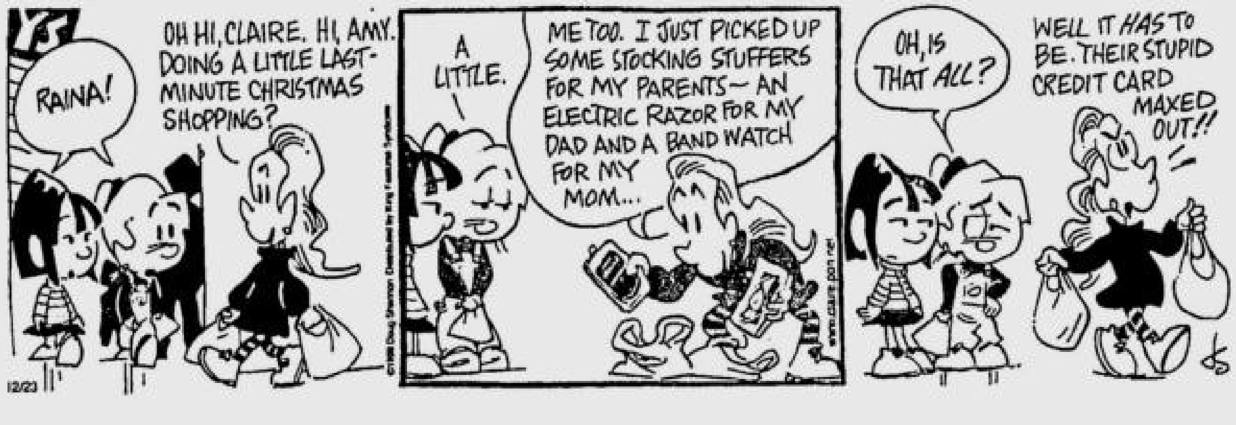
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG TAGAL NATING HINDI NAGKITA, JAJA!!! ANO'NG PINAGGAGAWA MO SA BUHAY?!!
WALA NAMAN MASYADO!!! DITO LANG AKO SA BAHAY NAGLALABA... NAGLILINIS... NAGLULUTO PARA KAY JOWA...
J-JAJA... I DIDN'T KNOW...
YOU'RE A VERY UNHAPPY WOMAN PALA!!!

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


RAINA!
OH HI, CLAIRE. HI, AMY. DOING A LITTLE LAST-MINUTE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?
A LITTLE.
ME TOO. I JUST PICKED UP SOME STOCKING STUFFERS FOR MY PARENTS— AN ELECTRIC RAZOR FOR MY DAD AND A BAND WATCH FOR MY MOM...
OH, IS THAT ALL?
WELL IT HAS TO BE. THEIR STUPID CREDIT CARD MAXED OUT!!
12/23

Fish fit for royalty

ASK NORA

Nora Daza

ISABEL Legarda Thompson of Washington, D.C. asked me for the Royal Apahap recipe. It seems she tried it at a friend's home over the holidays. I think we Filipinos have conditioned palates; we like Pinoy-tasting food.

My own daughters in the United States and Canada buy food products from the Philippines—crackers, junk food, etc. They tell me the supplies taste better. Maybe part of it is nostalgia—a bit of home in a foreign country.

Royal Apahap

1 (700 g-1 kg) *apahap* or *lapu-lapu* (grouper) or red snapper
1 tsp salt
¼-½ tsp pepper
1 c mayonnaise (to spread on the fish after some preliminary baking)
2-4 onions, sliced into rings (I say 2-4 for onions in the US are quite large but we need a handful of the thin onion rings)
2 tbsp olive oil
¼ c water

Season cleaned, drawn and scored fish. Be sure to season properly. (I cooked this recently and my girl just sprinkled salt and did not season the inside and the sides of the fish. It lacked salt!)

On a baking pan, arrange a layer of onion rings. Measure the 2 tbsp olive oil and the ¼ c water. Arrange the well-seasoned fish on the onion rings. Arrange more onion rings on top of fish then pour olive oil and water mixture over fish. Bake in an oven at 350° for 15 minutes.

While the fish is baking, prepare tomato sauce.

Sauce:
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1 onion, minced
1 c tomato sauce
2 tbsp olive oil

Heat olive oil and add garlic and onions. Allow these to color lightly.

Add tomato sauce and simmer for 15 minutes.

Remove fish from oven and pour sauce over the fish. Bake for 15 minutes more. Remove fish from oven and pour mayonnaise over fish. Bake for 5-10 minutes more.

Allow fish and flavors to settle a bit before serving. Garnish and serve hot.

This is really a simple but dressy. If you want to have a stronger flavor of olive oil, use extra virgin oil.

* * *

About olive oil, it is very in for it has been proven to help control blood cholesterol.

I called on my old friend and colleague Velona Arzaga Corpus. We went to school in UP together. She concentrated on dietetics and nutrition and I went into foods. So, when I want the latest info on those subjects, I call her. I just want to be sure I do not mislead my readers.

Fat and oils are necessary to carry flavors. Olive oil is an acquired taste for some; but to those around the Mediterranean area, olive oil is part of their lives. It has been so since biblical times. These days, eating the Mediterranean way is considered healthy. Hence the recommended two glasses of red wine and eating food cooked with olive oil—what has also been called the French paradox.

Due to everyone's concern with blood cholesterol and the fact that studies now show that olive oil has properties to reduce the "bad" low-density lipoproteins (LDL) cholesterol while raising the "good" high-density lipoproteins (HDL) cholesterol, olive oil is now found in almost all supermarkets in major cities worldwide.

Extra virgin olive oil is from the first pressing of oils from tree-ripened olives, and without chemicals. Extra virgin oil has lower acidity and has a fruity and full-bodied flavor. Oil that just says "olive oil" is filtered olive oil and is produced after the extra virgin olive oil has been pressed out. Plain olive oil is blander in flavor, can be used for frying and sautéeing for it does not produce smoke even when heated at temperatures higher than most cooking oils.

But all this is a matter of taste and budget.

My son Bong called me sometime ago, furious, because he had been using a brand of cooking oil that said: Contains No Cholesterol. That is misleading advertising. All cooking oils do not contain cholesterol. It is saturated fats like pork fat, mostly fat from animal sources used for cooking, that are potentially harmful to our health.

The better oils to use for cooking are canola, safflower and corn. By the way, one must really look at labels. I chose a cooking oil that was in a 2-liter container. One brand was selling for P197 and the one I bought was P110. Both were okay cooking oils.

* * *

Dann F. asked about Brunn butter. I used to see this item in most of our supermarkets. As this is an imported item, the importer may have found out that it was not worth his while to stock on this item. After all, we used Brunn butter before refrigeration became popular. Now we have butter from many rich dairy-producing countries.

So, Dann, if you cannot find Brunn butter these days, how about getting a very good butter cake recipe?

* * *

Gay Gonzalez asked about their *siomai*, which had its skin melting. If the recipe came from my cookbook "Let's Cook with Nora," please remember that I first published that in 1965. Then, I gave the recipe for the *siomai* wrapper. Today, they can be found in all Asian food stores. Try doubling the *siomai* wrapper and make sure that no drops of water fall on the *siomai* while you are steaming.

* * *

Katherine Grace Gose asked about her *siopao*, which had the dough part failing to rise. From her description and the fact that her yeast has been in storage for a year, it is most probable that the yeast is no longer active.

To find out if yeast is still usable, mix 2 tbsp sugar, ½ c warm milk (half evap and half warm water) and 2 tsp yeast. Dissolve yeast in the lukewarm mixture and let this stand for 10 minutes (longer in cold climates). The mixture should develop bubbles on top. If it does not, get a fresh supply of yeast and read instructions for use.

* * *

Claire sent me a very interesting e-mail concerning basil. She says: "I thought I might share this bit about basil because it may help other readers. In our garden shop, we offer four kinds of basil—sweet, lemon, Thai and purple. One thing we always do with our basil is never allow them to flower. By pinching off flowers as soon as they appear, we encourage foliage, prolong the life of the plants and, now, thanks to your article, I realized that we have also prevented their cross-pollination.

"In case anyone asks, we also offer other culinary herbs for sale, such as mint, rosemary, tarragon and sage. Thanks for sharing the story about the bees. Now, we will be even more vigilant about removing those basil flowers!"

I called Claire at the Greenhearts Garden Shop (tel. 411-6868) and was told that she sells potted herbs. You can visit their website at www.greenhearts.com.

E-mail the author at ngdev@infocom.net.ph

Satisfy your cravings for international cuisine

DINING OUT

THE NEW menu called "Big Binge" at Cravings extends to a wide variety of combinations and food selections for different cravings and hunger. The Polynesian Luau is for barbecue lovers who want their favorite meat skewer flanked with pineapple, sweet plantains and fresh *lapu-lapu*. The Shogun Selection is for Japanese food lovers. It consists of pork *katsu*, chicken yakitori skewers and crispy tempura fried veggies. The Italian Platter presents Italian sausage skillet sautéed in onions and served with Chicken Parmegiana. The love for American dishes is captured in Texas Western, a platter of chicken barbecue, Boston baked beans and juicy corn on the cob. To satisfy your Filipino palate, Filipino Fiesta is a good choice. It includes homegrown pork spareribs, chicken barbecue, grilled blue marlin and diced tomatoes with green mangoes. Call 426-4829/4838.

THAI IN A BOX. Savor authentic Thai cooking with recipes like the all-time favorite Bagoong Rice, Thai Grilled Steak, Grilled Chicken and Squid, Phad Thai Noodles, Spring Rolls and many more at Thai in a Box's third branch on Tomas Morato corner Scout de Guia. Call 415-0109 or 414-6683. Other branches are at Gold Park Center in Meralco Avenue, Pasig, and on Pasay Road, Makati.

HOLIDAY INN. In celebration of the grand opening of Holiday Inn Resort in Sanya, Holiday Inn Manila features authentic and delicious Hainanese Chicken Rice, a taste of gourmet boiled chicken rice cooked with chicken broth with chili sauce. Available from 12- 3 p.m., at the Pavilion Court until Jan. 31. Call 526-1212 local 2503.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL. The Pioneer of Makati City's midnight celebration of the Chinese New Year, Mandarin Oriental, Manila once again upholds the festive tradition on Jan. 23, 10 p.m., the eve of the Chinese New Year. Joseph Chau, the hotel's feng shui consultant who is currently the chair of the International Feng Shui Federation of Hong Kong, will officiate the said event.

Tin Hau welcomes diners with its Sunday lunch buffet as new Executive Chinese Chef Ngan How Chi introduces Beijing duck and suckling pig served with a variety of sauces, and a fresh seafood corner proffering steamed fish with soy sauce and spring onion, or delectable fried crab dish alternating weekly. Completing the buffet's regular cycle of at least three appetizers, eight hot dishes and three desserts is an eat-all-you-can dimsum selection served à la carte. Call 750-8888 local 2422 or 2424.

ITALIANNI'S. New special treats include the Seafood Pizza, which is made with shrimp and calamari, highlighted by a combination of Romano, provolone and mozzarella cheeses that adorn its thin crust, and Penne pasta, which is smothered with a combination of marinara sauce, mozzarella and Romano cheeses, sprinkled with julienne basil and crowned with ricotta cheese to make the Three Cheese Penne; the Salmon Fettuccine, made from premium salmon chunks sautéed in onions and tomatoes in pesto-cream sauce; and the Roasted Herbed Chicken, marinated with herbs and is served with a choice of mashed potato or garlic rice, grilled vegetables and Marsala sauce. Call 893-9190 or 892-2897.

SHABU-SHABU. Shabu-Shabu Bar and Grill offers an array of fresh, yellow and green vegetables, black and gold mushrooms, crab sticks, squid and fish balls, meatballs, fish cake, sweet corn and assorted noodles. You can visit its branches at Jupiter Street and Enterprise Center, Paseo de Roxas Street corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City and Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa. Franchising is also available in Greenhills, Alabang, Manila, Quezon City, Cebu and Davao. Call 899-9821 to -24.

CLAUDETTE'S. Former Ritz-Carlton pastry chef Claudette Go-Liso whips up delightful cakes, pastries, specialty breads and pies to make every day feel like Saturday. Get a delicious taste of the Greenhills shop fave Chocolate Soft Bread. Try also the classic *ensaymada* and cheese rolls. Experience a new kind of indulgence with every bite of Claudette's egg tarts, baked treats filled with a sweet egg mixture. Go bananas with homespun sweet banana, freshly baked bread with real shredded banana. Try Claudette's specialty cakes, the Fruits and Cream Cake, Sponge Cake covered with cream and fresh fruits of the season. Chocolate Sponge Cake flavored with original Bailey's liqueur and Buttercream and the sublime Bacardi Rum Cake, a variation on the same theme with Bacardi rum syrup. Other sweet pastries and goodies to choose from are mocha and vanilla chiffon cakes, best-selling brownies and food for the gods. Claudette's is at the G/F Easton Place, Valero corner Herrera Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Call 343-3965/-3996.

MANILA GALLERIA. Raphael Café Restaurant offers Korean dishes by certified gourmands until Jan. 20. Sample mouthwatering Noodles with Beef and Vegetables, Barbecued Beef and Deep Fried Chicken in Soya Sauce, cooked with myriad of fresh spices. Get a raving 25-percent discount when you partake of the delectable buffet collection, lunch or dinner. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

TROPICAL FOREST. Try its Pepperoni Pizza, made from fresh tomatoes, red and green bell peppers, onions, pepperoni and *chorizo* with lavish mozzarella cheese. The Forest's Pepperoni Pizza is best for lunch, snacks and dinner. Tropical Forest Grill Café and Restaurant is at T.M Kalaw corner Parade Street, Luneta Park, Manila. Call 400-7438 to -39.

BRADA GALLERY
5TH FLOOR CREEKSIDE MALL AMORSOLO STREET MAKATI CITY
a cooking school
by MASTER CHEF ED QUIMSON

THURSDAY 18 January 2001
1:30 to 4:30 p m
VERY SPECIAL PASTAS
Php 950.00
Cannelloni of Chicken and Pate
Penne with Smoked Longaniza Sauce Smoked Duck Lasagna
Spaghetti w/ Bacon, Asparagus and mushroom cream
Fettuccini of Crepes w/ Mango and grated white chocolate

FRIDAY 19 January 2001
1:30 to 4:30 p m
MERIENDA AFFAIR
Php 750.00
Pancit Buko
Sotanghon Sukiyaki Guisado
Barbeque sa Kawali
Taco Lumpia
Maja Mais

SUNDAY 21 January 2001
2:00 to 5:00 p m
COMFORT FOOD
Php 800.00
Roast Duck Mami
Fried Chicken Potato Salad
Beef Tereyaki Pizza
French Chocolate Cake
Creme Brulee

MONDAY 22 January 2001
1:30 to 4:30 p m
EVERYDAY FOOD
Php 850.00
Chicken Humba
Six Vegetable Lumpia (fresh or fried)
Sinigang Na Lechon Kawali
Pan Fried Fish Fillet Kaldereta
Banana Cream Pie

TUESDAY 23 January 2001
1:30 to 4:30 p m
EVERYDAY FOOD II
Php 950.00
Pumpkin Bisque
Seafood Curry
Chicken Ala King
Beef Stroganoff
Glazed Barbequed Pork Belly

Wednesday 24 January 2001
1:30 to 4:30 p m
EVERYDAY FOOD III
Php 1,200.00
Fish, Apple & Pineapple Salad
Bangus Bellies Asado
Breaded Chicken Wings stuffed with chorizo and cheese
London Broil Steaks
Mango Cream Caramel

THURSDAY 25 January 2001
1:30 to 4:30 p m
EVERYDAY FOOD IV
Php 900.00
Baked White Fish in white wine & olive oil
Iberian Chicken
Grilled Pork Chops w/caramelized onions
Meat Balls Stew
Fruit Salad

FRIDAY 26 January 2001
1:30 to 4:30 p m.
LAS PAELLAS
Php 1,300.00
Paella Espanola
Paella ala Sevillana (vegetarian)
Paella con Seta y Mejillones (w/ mussles & mushroom)
Paella Negra (w/ squid ink)
Paella al Campo (w/ lamb)

SATURDAY 27 January 2001
10:00 a m to 4:00 p m
INSTITUTIONAL HAM CURING
Php 4,000.00
(price inclusive of lunch)
Process of curing, cooking, & glazing
Leg of Ham
Ham Hocks
Ham Steaks
Plus two (2) Traditional Sauces
Beer and Pineapple
Maple Syrup & Apple Cider

MONDAY 29 January 2001
1:30 to 4:30 p m
FLAVORS OF SPAIN
Php 1,300.00
Ensalad Mixta
Sopa de Ajo
Pescado ala Sal con Aioli
Callos al estilo "Casa Paco"
Natillas

TUESDAY 30 January 2001
1:30 to 4:30 p m
OLD TIME FAVORITES
Php 850.00
Ceasar Salad
Gambas al ajillo
Pork & Beans
Chicken Fried Steak
Canonigo

seasoned chef of Spanish-Chinese Filipino descent, Master Chef Ed Quimson has worked in various prestigious establishments [illegible] internationally. To Carnival Cruise [illegible] Los Angeles [illegible] San Francisco [illegible] Chef Ed has been [illegible] known Nielsen [illegible] The Members [illegible] Philippine Stock Ex[illegible] recently the Subic [illegible] Club.

In addition, addition Chef Ed was a feature write[illegible] Standard and pres[illegible] Magazine.

He currently owns Rent-A-Chef, a catering service company which espouses a unique catering idea: "hire a chef" He uses your own ingredients and cooking equipment while whipping up mouth watering dishes with a distinct tas[illegible] aroma. This equates [illegible] expenses without sa[illegible] taste.

OUR FAMILY OF SPONSORS:
MONTEREY caterplan GLAD TEFAL CREAM CHEESE Area QUICKMELT

Make your reservations now for this cooking adventure For more information, pls. call 893-7677 or 892-7842, kindly look for Boy or Ronald.

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Now Cooking

The Road to Recovery

TOO MUCH PARTYING OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

Get back on track towards a healthier you with
Guilt-Free Low-Fat Recipes & *A Closer Look at Aromatherapy*
January 16 and 18, 2001 • 2:00 – 4:00 pm

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Tastes LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

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Miss Saigon
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Saturday-Sunday 2pm, 8pm
TICKETS AT ALL TICKET WORLD OUTLETS 8915610
CCP BOX OFFICE 8323704
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ERRATUM

In the story "We played 'jueteng' in the classroom" (PDI Sunday Lifestyle [p. D2], 01/07/01), the word "not" was inadvertently omitted from a sentence in the third column that read as follows: "But those children who did not want to join were forced to bet."

The omission of the word "not" before the word "forced" changed the sense of the statement. Parents can rest assured that no student at St. Scholastica's College Manila was forced to place bets. We are sorry for the mistake.

Beauty starts with a hot shower bath.

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The Maya Kitchen presents

Integrated Course on Waitering, Housekeeping and Bartending

People nowadays have come to better appreciate the practice of dining out. And with all the choices of restaurants and hotels, they have learned not only to look for good food but to demand a high standard of service as well.

Maya Kitchen's certificate course on waitering, housekeeping and bartending will help anyone keep up with competition in the restaurant and hotel business. It is also geared for enthusiasts and career-oriented individuals who want to have a head start in the field.

Date: Jan. 16, 17, 18, 19 (1:30 - 5 p.m.)

Coverage: Creative techniques for efficient table setting and table arrangement; more than a dozen styles of napkin folding; order-taking and sequence of proper serving; basic stewarding; bartending procedures including cocktail mixing. Free snacks. P2,000.

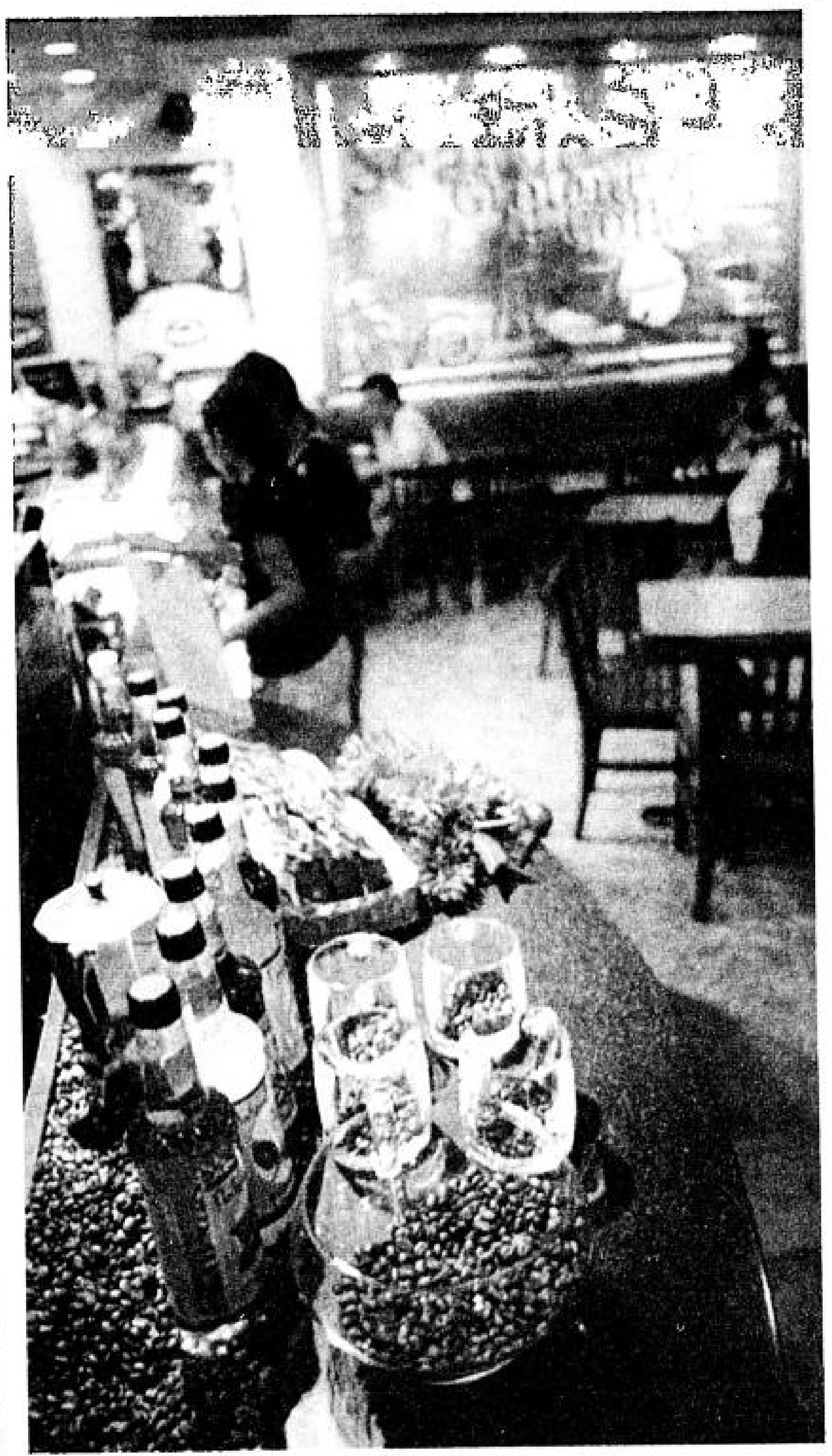
ONE-DAY SPECIALS.
Restaurant Operations: Jan. 13 (Sat) 9 a.m. 4 p.m. Kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory, etc. Proven techniques on profitable service operations with free lunch. P1,500.
Baking with Institutional Mixes: Jan. 13 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Assorted Brownies (Black Forest, Apple Chunk, Rocky Road), Pineapple Carrot Cake, Choco-Banana Loaf, Chocolate Muffins with Fudge Frosting, Pretzel, Hotdog on Stick, Butterscotch Squares, Chocolate Crinkles. Includes lecture on cost profit analysis. P400.
Japanese Cooking: Jan. 20 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso Soup, Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi, Assorted Sushi; Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki) with workshop on Sushi preparation. P750
Pre-Valentine Treat: Jan. 20 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. White Forest Cake, Crunch Cake, Tiramisu, Chocolate Mousse Cake, Carrot Cake. P500.
Catering: Jan. 27 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Portion control, costing, inventory, table layout, equipment sourcing with actual preparation of popular catering dishes such as Morcon, Galantina, Pork Asado, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, Baked Macaroni. All-Meat Paella, 3 types of fried rice and special desserts. P1,500.
Gulaman Delights: Jan. 27 (Sat) 3-5 p.m. Cathedral Window, Coffee Jelly, Almond Jelly, Fruity Chewy Salad, 24-Hour Salad, Fresh Crab Salad, and Buko Pandan. With food styling presentation. P300.

CERTIFICATE COURSES with hands-on:
Domestic Cooking: Jan. 16-19 (T-F) 1:30-5 p.m. For beginners, housewives, househelps. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for meats, poultry, fish, pasta, vegetables, sauces; de-boning of chicken and fish; with actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes; basic garnishing and table setting. Free apron and chef's hat. P2000.
Comprehensive Cooking Workshop: Jan. 23-26 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For Career Cooks. Coverage: menu planning, international standard techniques of preparating stocks, soups, sauces, dressings, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, etc. applicable to1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P2,500.
Basic Baking: Jan. 24-26 (Wed-Fri) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000.
Basic Cake Decoration: Jan. 27 and Feb.3 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture workshop on fundamentals in cake decorating; coloring, designing, template, icing preparation (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate,-sugar icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif. Free decorating tips. P2000.

For reservations and inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen at 8th Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City or call 892-1185; 892-5011 local 108.

Sleepless with Seattle's coffee

American import offers usual waker-uppers plus healthier alternatives loaded with Vitamin C and ginseng



COFFEE goodness down to the last bean

PHOTOS BY LYN RILLON

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

IF the current trend among coffee drinkers continue, more Filipinos may soon find themselves tossing and turning in their beds after having capped their day with a shot of espresso or a tall glass of iced latte.

Coffee habitues will soon be seeing more oval-shaped burgundy logos stamped with white letters and gold piping as Seattle's Best Coffee opens more branches in Metro Manila this year.

Its two branches in Quezon City (near St. Luke's Hospital) and at SM Manila have been providing Metro Manilans with an alternative to more established names such as Figaro and, yes, Starbucks for over six months now. Several SBC outlets are set to open at Rockwell's Powerplant, SM Megamall's Mega Strip and the new Greenbelt Mall in Makati.

Perked up

Founded by American coffee connoisseur Jim Stewart more than 30 years ago in Washington, SBC prides in having perked up the "specialty" coffee industry in the United States. It also spawned a host of players, including Starbucks, which eventually turned Seattle into the undisputed coffee capital of the US.

Today, SBC is part of the American Favorite Chicken group, which includes such food chains as Texas Chicken, Popeye Chicken and Cinnabon. There are now over 130 SBC outlets the world over, but the company still lives by the same principles and dedication that continue to guide Stewart in his pursuit of the perfect cup of coffee.

Coffee Masters Inc., the same company responsible for bringing Kenny Rogers to the Philippines, is SBC's exclusive franchise holder here. It plans to open 40 SBC outlets in the country by 2005. Three more stores are set to open at undisclosed locations sometime next year.

When Starbucks opened its first branch three years ago, almost everyone dismissed it as just another fad. Think shawarma and, before that, *lechong manok*. Were the doomsayers wrong!

Starbucks invariably became the place to be seen. Brewed coffee and its various permutations have suddenly become chic among Filipinos, even teenagers, as they yak the night away as if trying to make the most out of their order. Well, if you're shelling out 100 bucks for a glass of flavored stimulant, we would, too.

"Today, it's [Starbucks] everywhere," says Frederick Siy, managing director of Coffee Masters Inc. "But why limit it to one? There's plenty of room for new players."

Indeed, people are bound to compare SBC to Starbucks. Well, to rephrase one of the millennium's clichés, the proof of the coffee is in the sipping. You be the judge. It would be unfair, though, to consign SBC to second best because of its rival's more extensive presence.

Both offer a wide selection of the finest coffee

SLEEPLESS/ p.B7

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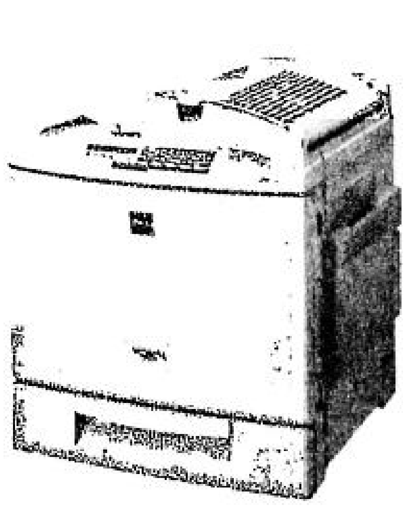

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